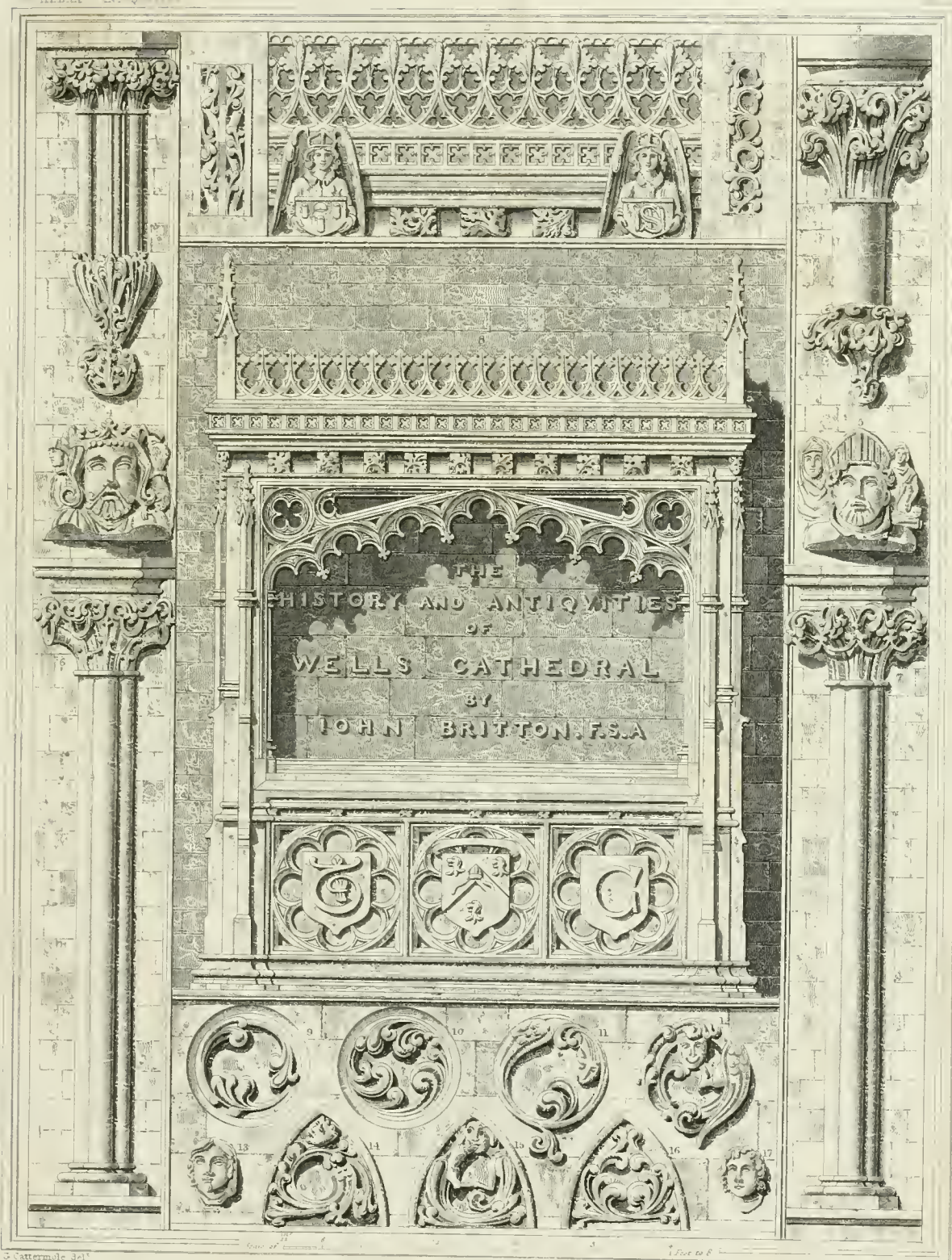


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THE REV. H. T. F. ... OF BETTON ... AS AN admirer of ancient Architecture this plate is inscribed by ... BRITTON
 London Published Aug 1824 by Longman & Co



J. Cattermole del.

J. Le Keux sculp.

WELLS CATHEDRAL.

MONUMENT & DETAILS OF PARTS FROM _____

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND & HONORABLE HENRY KYDER D.D. & LOND. BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER, DEAN OF WELLS &c.

This Plate is Respectfully inscribed by J. BRITTON.

LONDON: Published by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row, July 1. 1854.

THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH
OF
Wells:

ILLUSTRATED BY
A SERIES OF ENGRAVINGS,
OF
VIEWS, ELEVATIONS, PLANS, AND DETAILS
OF THE
Architecture of that Edifice;

INCLUDING
BIOGRAPHICAL ANECDOTES OF THE BISHOPS
OF THE
SEE OF BATH AND WELLS.

BY JOHN BRITTON, F.S.A.
ETC.

London:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, BROWN, AND GREEN, PATERNOSTER ROW;
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1824.

TO THE
RIGHT REVEREND GEORGE HENRY LAW, LL. D.
Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells;

TO THE
HON. AND RIGHT REV. HENRY RIDER, D.D.
LORD BISHOP OF LICHFIELD AND COVENTRY;

AS
Dean of Wells;

AND TO THE
RIGHT REVEREND WALKER KING, D.D. LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER;
HENRY GOULD, CLERK, M.A.
GEORGE TREVELYAN, CLERK, LL.D. ARCHDEACON OF TAUNTON;
ROGER FRANKLAND, CLERK, M.A.
FREDERICK BEADON, CLERK, M.A. CHANCELLOR OF THE CATHEDRAL;

AND TO
THOMAS WODEHOUSE, CLERK, M.A.

AS
Canons Residentiary of Wells Cathedral;

THIS VOLUME

IS, BY PERMISSION, INSCRIBED, WITH EVERY SENTIMENT OF RESPECT,

LONDON, Nov. 1824.

BY THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

CONSIDERING the variety of dispositions and pursuits of the many persons whom I must necessarily consult, or come in contact with, during the progress of such a work as "The Cathedral Antiquities of England," it cannot excite surprise that some of them should be of the "crabbed genus;" for neither education, profession, nor even extensive intercourse with mankind, will entirely subdue or counteract constitutional moroseness. Though I have met with a few of this class, and have consequently experienced vexation and inconvenience, it has been my fortunate lot to encounter but *few*; whereas my researches have often been facilitated by prompt and unreserved communications; and far more civilities and assistance have been tendered than I could either accept or profit by. Thus, though my path has been occasionally impeded by the briars of ill-nature and envy, it has more generally been smoothed with courtesy, and strewn with the fragrant flowers of kindness. It is this courtesy and kindness, from the principal dignitaries of the church, from some of the nobles of the country, and from many antiquarian and professional friends, which jointly cooperate to impel me onward in the apparently long journey that I have undertaken; and whilst thus favoured, and life and health are awarded to me, I hope to continue in the same track to the end. More than half of this journey may be said to be performed; as the most interesting of the English Cathedrals have already been illustrated in this work¹. It is true, that the majority, in number, remain to be described; and it is equally true, that some of them are highly curious and important as objects of Architecture, Antiquity, and History. But as the Cathedrals of Wales and London are not intended to be comprised in the proposed Series, we have the following only to bring under review, viz. Exeter, Peterborough², Bristol, Gloucester, Hereford, Rochester, Lincoln, Durham, Chi-

¹ The names of these, with the sizes, prices, and number of engravings to each Cathedral are enumerated in a list at the end of this volume.

² The drawings for Exeter and Peterborough Cathedrals are prepared and in progress, and some of the plates are engraved. It is proposed to complete the History of Exeter Cathedral about Michaelmas next, and that of Peterborough by January, 1826.

chester, Chester, Worcester, Carlisle, and Ely; and some of them, like that at Oxford, may be displayed in a series of eleven or twelve engravings. My present calculation is to complete the work in sixty numbers, or six volumes; the price of which will be £36. small paper; and the embellishments of which will amount to, at least, three hundred and thirty. Considering the number and variety of subjects, facts, and evidence which will thus be brought into one focus—the styles of execution which the engravings will collectively display of the respective talents of draftsmen and engravers—the mass of information thus concentrated respecting every class and variety of Ecclesiastical Architecture in this country—and the antiquarian, historical, and biographical elucidations that will be collected, and rendered subservient to the purposes of genius and the uses of science, it cannot be denied that a publication in which so many requisites are combined will form a most important, as well as valuable feature in the embellished literature of Great Britain.

In the execution of a work like the present, the author is, or ought to be, divested of all personal and private feeling; for he is performing a public task, and is amenable to the public tribunal. It is his duty to seek every opportunity to obtain correct and judicious information—to impart that to his readers with fidelity—and in every way to render his undertaking as nearly perfect as possible. It is, also, the duty of the dignitaries and other temporary officers of Cathedrals (for each one is only a life trustee on the Establishment), to render every facility to the artist and the author, whose integrity is unimpeached, and whose abilities are equal to his integrity. When this be done, the labours of the latter are made comparatively easy, and he pursues his inquiries with cheerfulness to himself, and with sentiments of respect and gratitude towards those who have forwarded his pursuits. On the other hand, when he is obliged to petition, and to entreat, to brook “the insolence of office,” and to put up with “the proud man’s contumely,” he is naturally irritated, and may be excited to speak in unpleasant and unpolite terms.—It is not my intention, however, to pen personal censures for the present work. My feelings incline me rather to use the language of commendation, in recording instances of condescension and urbanity; and it is with sincere pleasure that I name the following Prelates and officers of Cathedrals as demanding my own esteem, and as entitled to the thanks of

every admirer of this work:—the present BISHOPS of Salisbury, Norwich, Peterborough, Wells, and Lichfield; the DEANS of Winchester, Norwich, Lichfield, Oxford, Wells, Bristol, York, Ripon, Westminster, and Canterbury; and the various Prebendaries and Canons Residentiary of the Cathedrals already illustrated, and whose names will be found in the Prefaces respectively devoted to each Cathedral.

It gives me much pleasure to learn that many of the amateur subscribers to this work, who formerly disregarded the engravings of *plans, sections, &c.* which it contains, are not only reconciled to their adoption, but even consider them as essential illustrations. The architect and scientific antiquary have long known and appreciated their utility; they also know that such prints are the only authentic and satisfactory evidence to elucidate the true forms of arches, mouldings, and architectural details. Had the antiquaries of the past century, Gough, Grose, King, Whitaker, &c. studied and understood this species of elucidation, they would have shortened and simplified their own writings, and furnished more accurate and satisfactory information to their readers, than is now to be found in their respective publications. Plans and sections have been systematically introduced into this work from principle; and from a conviction that they are the only evidences to be confided in, when illustrating the history and characteristics of architecture. Had I modelled the work to amuse the eye, at the expense of the judgment, the engravings would have been made pretty and shewy rather than elaborate and accurate; but I have preferred the useful to the agreeable, although without disregarding the latter whenever the two classes could be properly associated.

It is well known to the antiquary that neither the Architectural excellencies nor the History of the Cathedral Church of Wells have ever been duly investigated: both are attempted in the present work, and it is hoped that both will be satisfactory to those who are best qualified to appreciate the execution. The sources for the literary part have been numerous, but sometimes contradictory, and often very imperfect. They were mostly our old Chronicles and Histories; for I am informed that there are scarcely any original documents or evidence among the Cathedral archives. In the execution of this department I am much indebted to Mr. BRAYLEY, who has scrupulously investigated every statement of other writers, and has not

made any himself without reference to all accessible authorities. This will appear by the numerous notes to every page, and by the list of publications at the end of the volume.

In the original prospectus relating to Wells Cathedral, I engaged to give *twenty-two engravings*, but have actually given twenty-four; and hence in this, as in some former instances, have exceeded my pledge. By the list at the end it will be seen, at one view, that nearly all these engravings manifest the skilful and tasteful execution of an artist whose works have conferred honour on his name, and have tended in a powerful manner to give interest and fascination to this branch of art. The plate of the interior, under the tower, is of the same class and character; and I cannot allude to its merit without thanking the engraver for the care and skill he has bestowed on it. If I do not specify other artists individually, it is not from disrespect or indifference; for I believe that each has exerted his best powers, and is therefore entitled to my acknowledgments. But all persons cannot excel; for in the arduous race of fame, only a few of the distinguished sons of genius can hope to win the golden prize. Whilst merit thus secures applause, it also awakens emulation;—laudable and zealous competition, whilst it rouses all the latent energies of the soul, improves the public taste, the public morals, and the public welfare of a nation.

In the progress of the volume I have experienced assistance or personal civilities from the following gentlemen, relating to this Cathedral; to each and to all of whom I beg to tender, in this place, my sincere thanks:—The present Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Dean of Wells, the Rev. Roger Frankland, the Rev. R. Foster, the Rev. Frederick Beadon, the Rev. Wm. Phelps, Wm. Parfitt, Esq. and Edward Tuson, Esq.

History and Antiquities
OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF WELLS.

Chap. I.

UNCERTAINTY OF THE REMOTE HISTORY OF THIS SEE:—REPUTED INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY INTO BRITAIN BY JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA:—DUBIOUSNESS OF THE STORY OF KING LUCIUS:—ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISION OF THE WEST SAXON KINGDOM; AND SUCCESSIVE INSTITUTION OF THE SEES OF DORCHESTER, WINCHESTER, SHERBORNE, AND WELLS:—HISTORICAL PARTICULARS OF THE BISHOPRIC OF WELLS, FROM THE PERIOD OF ITS ORIGIN UNTIL THE TIME OF ITS REMOVAL TO BATH IN THE REIGN OF WILLIAM RUFUS.

THE remote history of almost all our episcopal establishments is so involved in inconsistency and fable that a satisfactory account of their origin can seldom be obtained, and the obscurity increases as it recedes from our own times. This is peculiarly the case in respect to the See of Wells, the notices of which in our early writers are both confused and meagre; and the difficulty of determining at what period a religious foundation was established in this district, is much augmented by the questionable authenticity of different charters which are said to have been granted by the West Saxon Kings, Ina and Kenulph, or Cynewulph. There cannot, perhaps, be a greater

proof of the uncertainty that attends an inquiry into the precise era of the foundation of our episcopal sees than what arises from the conduct of William of Malmesbury, who, throughout his five books "De Gestis Pontificum Anglorum," has uniformly omitted dates; and although in some cases he specifies the number of years during which the prelates held their seats, he never gives the date either of their appointment, death, or removal.

It has been inferred that the Christian religion was introduced into this City from the neighbouring town of Glaston, or Glastonbury; where, if the monkish legends may be credited, it had been originally settled about the year 63, by St. Joseph, of Arimathea, who buried the body of our Saviour, and had himself been the friend and companion of St. Philip, by whom he had been despatched into Britain with eleven other disciples of that Apostle¹. These missionaries, according to the Ashmolean Manuscript, obtained, from the British King, Arviragus, permission to settle at *Yuswytryn*, or the Glassy Island, as it was called from the colour of the surrounding water; and to each person he gave for his support a hide of land²; the whole comprising a district which thenceforward was denominated the *Twelve Hides of Glaston*, and has been so called even to the present time³. The island, itself, afterwards received the name of *Avallon*, either from *Aval*, an apple, in which fruit it abounded; or from a British chief of that name, to whom it had belonged. Here, St. Joseph, whom the monkish historians consider as the first abbot, is reputed to have erected a chapel of *wreathed twigs*, or *twisted rods*, in honour of the Virgin Mary, which thus became the first Christian oratory in England⁴.

Bishop Stillingfleet regards the tradition concerning Joseph of Arimathea as an invention of the monks of Glastonbury to serve the interests of their

¹ *Johannis Glaston. "Hist." ed. Hearne, vol. i. p. 1 et 48. Gul. Malm. "Gest. Pont." ed. Hearne, p. 5. Glastonbury is about six miles from Wells to the south-west.*

² *Dugdale's "Monasticon Anglicanum," vol. i. p. 22; new edit. ex "Hist. Eccl. Glastoniensis," MS. in Museo Ashmoleano, Num. 790.* ³ *Dugd. "Mon." Ibid. p. 1.*

⁴ *Johan. Glaston. Hearne's edit. p. 10. Gul. Malm. "Gest. Pont." p. 12. Polyd. Vergilius, "Hist." fol. Basileæ, 1557, lib. iv. p. 89.*

monastery⁵; and there can be little doubt of the correctness of his opinion. Admitting, however, for the sake of argument, that a religious establishment actually existed at Glastonbury at the early period assigned, we have not the least evidence that its influence was extended beyond its original seat. But about a century afterwards, in the reign of King Lucius, to whom the monkish fabulists have given such wide-spreading domination in Britain, and that, too, at a time when the Romans are known to have been in full possession of the country, the Saints, Faganus and Deruvianus are said to have rebuilt the oratory and added another of stone, and to have extended, by their preaching, and by the influence of the king and his family, whom they had baptized, a knowledge of Christianity over the greatest part of Britain. The story of Lucius, however, is fraught with so many inconsistencies, both in respect to the state of the times, and to all we know of the principles which the Romans pursued in the government of their colonies, that the whole is rendered incredible; nor does it appear from any Roman author, that ever a prince so named was, at any time, in alliance with them, or was suffered to govern a subordinate kingdom under their prefects. The total silence, also, of the Roman historians as to any Christian hierarchy being established in this country during the three first centuries of the Roman dominion here (since it appears from Ignatius, that there could have been no church without a succession of bishops) affords a strong presumption that, in the above period, the diffusion of Christianity, in this island, was extremely limited; and that it arose more from accidental circumstances than from a settled plan of conversion⁶.

In the "Glastonbury Chronicle," quoted by Wharton, and referred to in the "Primordia" of Archbishop Usher, it is stated that the Bishopric of

⁵ "Origines Britannicæ," &c. p. 6. None of our more antient historians take the least notice of the monkish tale which attributes the foundation of Glastonbury to "Joseph of Arimathea."

⁶ Vide, "Hist. and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church of Winchester," chap. i. in which is given an extended inquiry into the history of Lucius, and of the first introduction of Christianity into this island; together with various particulars respecting the progress of the Christian faith in the West-Saxon kingdom.

Somersetshire was first instituted by the Saints Fagan and Deruvian, in the year 167, at *Kungresbury*, or *Congersbury* (which is about two miles to the west of Wrington, and eighteen miles from Wells); and that it continued there for six hundred years and upwards, even to the time of King Ina of the West Saxons; when Bishop Daniel, with the consent of that sovereign, translated it to the village of *Tethiscine*, now called Wells⁷. Neither Wharton nor Bishop Tanner, however, give the least credit to this account; and when we find it admitted by the chronicler himself, that of the many successive bishops who sat at Congersbury, nothing had been discovered either of their actions or of the times when they lived, we may naturally infer that it is altogether undeserving of belief⁸.

WELLS, says Bishop Godwin, "which was so called from its abundant springs⁹, and is named *Tidington*, in a charter of King Edward the Confessor¹⁰, was not a place of any extraordinary note before the time of Ina, King of the West Saxons, who built a Church there, and dedicated it in honour of St. Andrew, A. D. 704." In this account most writers agree; but with the addition, that Ina's church was Collegiate only, and that the Bishopric

⁷ "Anno Domini CLXVII. Episcopatus Somersetiæ per SS. Faganum et Deruvianum sumpsit exordium, et in Kungresburiâ per multum tempus Sedes Episcopalis fuit.—In tempore autem prædicti Regis, [Ina] Daniel, qui in Cathedrâ de Kungresburiâ sedebat ultimus, Sedem illam, quæ illic per DC. annos vel ampliùs remanserat, ad villam quæ tunc *Tethiscine*, nunc verò *Welles* nominatur, Inâ Rege donante et ei consentiente, transtulit." "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 553.—Camden says, that *Congersbury* was so called from Congarus, a man of exemplary piety, (said by Capgrave to have been the son of an Emperor of Constantinople) who lived a hermit there. "Britannia," vol. i. edit. 1789. Capgrave says, in "Vita S. Cungiari," that Congersbury was a very solitary place, and had its name and renown from a religious hermit called Cungar, who, by the gift of King Ina, had the adjacent territory: and here, about the year 711 (see Cressy's "Church History"), founded a Collegiate church for twelve canons, to the honour of the Holy Trinity. There is an important chronological error in the account of Cungar, who is said to have received the blessing of St. Dubritius, Bishop of Llandaff, though the latter quitted that See in the year 512. Vide "Notitia Monastica," in Somersetshire.

⁸—"Sederunt itaque in eadem Sede plurimi Pontifices successivè usque ad tempus Inæ Regis West-Saxonum; quorum numerum, gesta et tempora nusquam reperimus descripta."—"Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 553.

⁹ "Villa à copia fonticulorum sic dicta." "De Præsulibus Angliæ," p. 363. edit. 1743.

¹⁰ Vide, Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. Num. II. p. 286. edit. 1819.

of Wells was not founded till the reign of Edward the Elder, in the beginning of the tenth century. There is extant, however, in William of Malmesbury's "De Antiquitate Glastoniensis Ecclesiæ," and in some copies of his "De Gestis Regum Anglorum," a very full charter of privileges, which King Ina is affirmed to have granted to the monastery of Glastonbury in the year 725; and from which, if the *charter be not a forgery*, the existence of an Episcopal See at Wells, prior to that date, may be distinctly inferred, although it is not directly asserted.

As the subject is curious in itself, and as Dugdale and his recent editors have given the charter at length, but without any remark as to its style or presumed spuriousness, or connecting it in any way with the institution of this See, the most material parts of it, including those which particularly refer to Wells will be here inserted, and the question as to its authenticity will be afterwards examined; the early history of this Church being particularly involved in the decision of that question.

After stating, among other circumstances, that the ancient Church of the eternal Virgin at Glastonbury was sanctified by Christ and his Angels, by many and unheard-of miracles—" *multis et inauditis miraculis*"—the charter proceeds to confirm to that Church in the fullest manner all former grants of lands and privileges, and to exempt both it and its dependent chapels from all secular and ecclesiastical services, and all visitations whatsoever, but those which the abbot and his brethren should agree to:—" And whatsoever questions," it continues, " shall arise, whether of homicide, sacrilege, poison, theft, rapine, the disposal and limits of churches, the ordination of clerks, ecclesiastical synods, and all judical inquiries, they shall be determined by the decision of the Abbot and Convent, without the interference of any person whatsoever. Moreover, I command all my sub-kings, archbishops, bishops, dukes, and governors, as they tender my honour and regard, and all dependants, mine as well as theirs, as they value their personal safety, never to dare enter the Island of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the eternal Virgin, at Glastonbury, nor the possessions of the said Church, for the purpose of holding courts, making inquiry, or seizing, or doing any thing whatever to the offence of the servants of God there residing: moreover, I particularly

inhibit, by the *curse* of Almighty God, of the eternal Virgin Mary, and of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and of the rest of the saints, any bishop, on any account whatever, from presuming to take his episcopal seat, or celebrate divine service, or consecrate altars, or dedicate churches, or ordain, or do any thing whatever, either in the Church of Glastonbury itself or in its dependent churches, that is to say Sowy, Brente, Merlinch, Sapewic, Stret, Sbudecalech, Pilton, or in their chapels, or islands, unless he be specially invited by the abbot or brethren of that place. But if he come upon such invitation, he shall take nothing to himself of the things of the Church, nor of the offerings; knowing that he has two mansions appointed him out of this Church's possessions, one in *Poclt*, the other in the village called *Pilton*, that, when coming and going, he may have a place of entertainment: nor even shall it be lawful for him to pass the night in this place, unless he be detained by stress of weather, or bodily sickness, or be invited by the abbot and his brethren; and then with not more than three or four clerks. Moreover, let the aforesaid bishop be mindful every year, with his clerks that are at Wells, to acknowledge his mother church of Glastonbury with Litanies, on the second day after our Lord's Ascension. But should he, inflated with pride, defer it, or prevaricate in the things which are above recited and confirmed, he shall forfeit the mansions above mentioned; and the abbot and his monks shall direct whatever bishop they please, who celebrates Easter canonically, to perform service in the Church of Glastonbury, its dependent churches, and in their chapels. Whosoever shall hereafter, on any occasion whatsoever, attempt to pervert or nullify this the testament of my munificence and liberality, let him know that with the traitor Judas, to his eternal confusion, he shall perish in the devouring flames of unspeakable torments. The charter of this donation and privilege was written in the year of our Lord's Incarnation 725, the 4th of the Indiction; in the presence of King Ina, and of Beorthwald, Archbishop of Canterbury, the venerable prelates Daniel and Fordred, and others whose names are underneath. I, Ina, King, with my own hand subscribe this donation and liberty; and ratify it under the seal of the Holy Cross. I, Edelburg, Queen, consent to it. I, Baldred, King, confirm it. I, Adelard, brother to the Queen, consent. I, Beorth-

wald, Archbishop of the church of Canterbury, King Ina's donation and liberty, under the seal of the Holy Cross, corroborate. I, Daniel, Inspector of God's People, acquiesce. I, Fordred, Bishop, with the mark of the Cross impress it. Waldhere, Prefect; Brutus, Prefect; Ethelheard; Umming, Prefect; Winchelin, Earl, with all the people present, consent to and confirm it¹¹."

From the mention of the "Bishop," in this record, so immediately in connection with that of "his clerks who are at Wells¹²," it may fairly be argued that his Episcopal Seat was there likewise; and particularly so from the circumstance that both Poelt and Pilton (assuming the former place to have been afterwards called *Poelt's-ham* and now *Polesham*) are situated on the two roads which communicate between Wells and Glastonbury¹³. But this inference, though it accords with the chronicle before quoted, in regard to the existence of a Bishop's See at Wells, in King Ina's time, cannot be deemed valid, if the charter itself be spurious; which, from the following considerations, it unquestionably appears to be.

It must be evident that the decided intention of the charter was to exempt the possessions of the Church of Glastonbury from every kind of subjection and service whatever, whether due to the prelacy or to the crown; and more particularly, so far as words could secure them, from the visitations and control of the Bishops of the diocese wherein the monastic estates lay; and which estates, as named in this instrument, were all in Somersetshire. This total freedom from Episcopal jurisdiction was an object which the Glastonbury monks had always at heart; yet notwithstanding the full and express terms by which the dependent Churches of Glastonbury are exempted in the charter, we learn from Collinson, that the jurisdiction over those very parishes was the subject of a four hundred and fifty years controversy be-

¹¹ Vide, the original Latin in Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. i. Num. VII. p. 25.

¹² "Hoc etiam provideat idem Episcopus, ut singulis annis cum Clericis suis qui *Fontanetum* sunt,"—&c.

¹³ Wells, Glastonbury, and Pilton, may be described as situated at the angles of a triangle; Wells being towards the north, Glastonbury to the south-west, and Pilton to the south-east.

tween the Monks of that monastery and the Bishops of the diocess¹⁴. It may be concluded, therefore, either that the alleged charter was not in existence at the time of the dispute, or that the prelates who were contending for supremacy, gave no credit to its genuineness.

That the monks of different establishments were occasionally, at least, employed in fabricating charters, to free their possessions both from secular claims and ecclesiastical authority, is most certain. Dugdale, speaking of these antient deeds, expressly states, in the preface to his "Monasticon," that "the older they pretend to be, the more they are to be suspected;" and although Mabillon controverts this, as creating too general a suspicion of the validity of monastic records, he is obliged, at the conclusion of his discourse, to rest his vindication of the monks, on "the commonness of the fault in elder times¹⁵."

But the charter, attributed to Ina, presents other marks of forgery than those merely of suspicion. He addresses his sub-kings, archbishops, bishops, dukes, and others, as familiarly as though the whole kingdom was already subjected to Wessex; and which we know was not the case till more than a century afterwards. The East-Angles, it is true, had submitted to Ina's power, and the Kentish people had purchased a peace at the expense of 30,000 marks of gold; but this was far from giving him that extensive predominancy which the charter implies. Not a single archbishop was included in his dominions; and as for Baldred, the king whose signature is affixed to the document in question, the only sovereign of that name mentioned by our antient historians, was that "abortion of royal dignity," as Malmesbury calls him, who was expelled from Kent by Egbert in 823; nearly one hundred years after Ina's decease. The general style and phraseology of the charter are also far more diffuse than the authenticated grants of the period; and what is still more conclusive of forgery, the years of the Indiction and Incarnation do not agree, the former in A. D. 725, being *eight*, and not *four*, as stated in this fabricated record. We have, therefore, no certain testimony

¹⁴ "History of Somersetshire," vol. ii. p. 241.

¹⁵ "De Re Diplomat." lib. iii. c. vi. n. 10.

of the establishment of a Bishop's See at Wells in Ina's time; nor is there, indeed, any other evidence of that monarch having actually founded a Collegiate Church in this city, than what arises from the general current of tradition and probability, unsupported, however, by any contemporary document.

The endowments of Ina's establishment, which is said to have originally included only four canons, were, according to a charter given as authentic by Bishop Godwin¹⁶, considerably augmented by King Kenulph in 766; but Wharton and Tanner regard it as spurious, and the latter refers to Dr. Hicke's "Thesaurus," in proof of that learned inquirer being of the same opinion¹⁷. Wharton says, that if Godwin had "considered the Bishops subscribing to it, and compared the years of the Incarnation and Indiction, he might have easily perceived it to be a forgery¹⁸." Both Leland and Camden, however, have noticed it without questioning its authenticity; although there can be no doubt of the correctness of Wharton's opinion. By that charter, eleven manses or farms, in the neighbourhood of Wells, near the river of *Welwe*, are granted to increase the monastery situated by the great spring called *Wielea*.

Having thus far traced the presumed origin of this See, and endeavoured to investigate the truth of the early traditions concerning it, we arrive at more sure ground; and are enabled by the general testimony of ancient authors to pursue its more certain history through the Saxon period, and till the time of its removal to Bath after the Norman conquest.

This diocess formed a part of the West Saxon kingdom, which was converted to Christianity by an Italian bishop named *Birinus*, who, according to that most valuable of all our ancient records, the "Saxon Chronicle," first preached baptism to the West Saxons in 634¹⁹. He was advised to visit Britain by Pope Honorius, to whom he had promised, says Bede²⁰, to "sow

¹⁶ "De Præsulibus Angliæ," p. 363. edit. 1743.

¹⁷ "Notitia Monastica," under Wells, note *t*. The reference given to the preface of the "Thesaurus" is, however, incorrect, for no mention of Kenulph's charter is therein made.

¹⁸ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 553. *a*.

¹⁹ "Saxon Chronicle," p. 35, Ingram's edit.

²⁰ "Hist. Ecclesiasticæ," lib. iii. c. vii.

the seed of the Holy Faith, in the inner parts, beyond the dominions of the English, where no other teacher had been before him.—But coming into Britain, and first entering the nation of the *Gevisseans* [West Saxons], and finding all there most confirmed Pagans, he thought it more beneficial to preach the word of God among them, than to proceed further in search of others." In the following year, Cynegils, who, with Cwihelm his son, reigned jointly over the West Saxons, was baptized at *Dorchester*, in Oxfordshire, where Cwihelm appears to have kept his court.

Cynegils, and Oswald his sponsor, the pious king of the Northumbrians, gave *Dorchester* to Birinus, "there to settle his Episcopal See²¹; but this seems to have been only a provisional arrangement until a Cathedral church, of which Cynegils had laid the foundations, was completed at *Venta Belgarum*, or Winchester, where the royal palace was situated. Birinus was succeeded by *Agelbert*, or *Egilbert*, in 650, a native of France, who had long studied in the distinguished schools of Ireland; but his foreign accents proving obnoxious to Kenwal, or Kenwalsh, the son and successor of Cynegils, that king, anno 660, divided his province into two diocesses; assigning to the See of *Dorchester* the jurisdiction over the northern part of *Wessex*, and establishing a new See, for the southern part, at Winchester, of which he appointed *Wina*, a Saxon, who had received ordination in France, the first Bishop. Egilbert being highly offended at this division, quitted the kingdom, and *Wina* became bishop of both Sees; but about three years afterwards, he was expelled by the king, who kept the episcopacy vacant for several years: at length, alarmed by defeats in battle, and other adversities, which he attributed to his neglect of religion, he sent messengers to request the return of Egilbert, who was at that time bishop of Paris. Egilbert declined the invitation, but recommended the appointment of *Lothere*²², or *Leutherius*, his nephew; who was accordingly consecrated Bishop of the West Saxons, by Archbishop Theodore, in the year 670²³. He was succeeded, in 676, by *Headda*, or *Hedda*, by whom the episcopal seat was formally translated to

²¹ Bede's "Hist. Eccl." lib. iii. c. vii.

²² Vide "Saxon Chronicle," sub, anno 670.

²³ In the grant of Malmesbury to Aldhelm, the Priest, afterwards Bishop of Sherborne, Leutherius styles himself, 'Supreme Bishop of the Saxon See.' Vide, Gul. Malm. in "De Gest. Reg."

Winchester: at the same time he removed to the latter city the sainted remains of Birinus, which had been interred in his original church at Dorchester²⁴. *Hedda* died in the year 703, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," though Matthew of Westminster places his decease in 704, and Bede in 705; but the first date is most probably the correct one, as the above record adds, that he had held the see "twenty-seven winters," which agrees with the time of his appointment.

After Hedda's decease, king Ina again divided the West Saxon diocess into two distinct Sees: this, according to Bishop Godwin, was effected by his own authority, but William of Malmesbury states it to have been done by an episcopal synod²⁵. The new See was fixed at *Sherborne*, in Dorsetshire, near the southern verge of Somersetshire; which county, together with those of Berks, Dorset, Wilts, Devon, and Cornwall, were assigned to its jurisdiction. This division, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," was made in the "first days" of Bishop *Daniel*, who succeeded Hedda in the See of Winchester; he had been a monk in the celebrated scholastic foundation at Malmesbury, and was a fellow student with the learned *Aldhelm*, who was appointed the first bishop of Sherborne. This prelate is spoken of in the most exalted terms both by Bede and Malmesbury; the former characterizes him as "wonderful for ecclesiastical and liberal erudition²⁶;" and the latter states, that he had "a mind clear, and almost divinely inspired²⁷." He is said to have been nearly related to king Ina; but Malmesbury argues against the asserted opinion of his being the nephew of that sovereign²⁸. He died in

²⁴ Some particulars of this very curious edifice will be found in the "History of Winchester Cathedral," p. 24. n. 37.

²⁵ "Angl. Sacr." pars ii. p. 20.

²⁶ "Hist. Ecclesiasticæ," b. v. c. xix.

²⁷ "De Gest. Reg." b. i. c. ii.

²⁸ Ibid. See also, "Vitâ S. Aldhelmi:" in "Angl. Sacr." pars ii. p. 2. In the new edition of Dugdale, Vol. I. p. 330. note h. it is erroneously said, that Malmesbury calls Aldhelm the son of Kenred, brother of king Ina. On the contrary, he expressly states, on the authority of the "Saxon Chronicle," that "Ina had no other brother than Inigild, who died some years before him." Aldhelm is reputed to be the first Englishman who wrote in Latin; and he himself acquaints us, in one of his Treatises on Music, that he was the first who introduced poetry into England. Several manuscripts of his much vaunted Treatise, "De Laude Virginitatis," as ancient as the eighth century, are extant in our Public Libraries.

the year 709, and was succeeded by *Forthere*, or *Fordhere*; in whose time, as stated by Bede, it was decreed in a synod, that the province of the South Saxons, which had been overrun by the kings of Wessex, should have "a bishop of its own:" and accordingly an episcopal See was instituted at *Selsey*, or *Scolsey*, on the coast of Sussex; which was eventually transferred to Chichester. In 737, Bishop Forthere accompanied Queen Frithogitha to Rome, where he is supposed to have terminated his earthly pilgrimage.

But little is known of the four immediate successors of Forthere, viz. *Herewald*, *Ethelmod*, *Denefrith*, and *Wilbert*, or *Wigbert*, the latter of whom, in the "Saxon Chronicle," under the date 812, is styled Bishop of Wessex: in that year he accompanied Wulfred, archbishop of Canterbury, on a journey to Rome. *Ealhstan*, who was the next bishop of Sherborne, was a famous warrior²⁹. In 823, he accompanied the army which was sent by Egbryht, or Egbert, against Baldred, king of Kent, who was driven from his dominions, and both Kent and Essex submitted to the West Saxons. He was also engaged in many successful battles against the Danes, one of the most considerable of which was fought in the year 845, when "Alderman Eanwulf, with the men of Somersetshire, and Bishop Ealhstan and Alderman Osric, with the men of Dorsetshire, fought at the mouth of the Parret with the Danish army; and there, after making a great slaughter, obtained the victory³⁰." Malmesbury says, that on Ethelwulf's going to Rome, in 854, this bishop set up his son Ethelbald against him; and the king, on his return, to avoid the shedding of human blood, consented to divide the kingdom with his rebellious son³¹. Ealhstan died in 867, having possessed his see during "fifty winters³²." *Edmund*, or *Headmund*, his successor, was slain in battle by the Danes at *Meredune*, probably Merdon, in Wiltshire, in the year 871. Of his successors, *Etheleage* and *Alfsy*, or *Alfsius*, nothing is recorded. The next bishop was the celebrated *Asserius Menevensis*, who was advanced

²⁹ "Ealhstanus bellator fuit strenuissimus." Vide Godwin, "De Præsul. Ang." p. 331.

³⁰ "Saxon Chronicle," p. 92. Ingram's edit.

³¹ "De Gest. Pont." c. ii. and "De Gest. Reg." b. ii. c. ii.

³² "Saxon Chronicle," sub anno 867.

from Exeter to Sherborne by the great Alfred, with whom he lived on the most friendly and familiar terms³³. He was a native of South Wales, and was brought up in the monastery of St. David's; Novis, the archbishop, being his near relation. His tutor was the famous Johannes Patricius, one of the most accomplished scholars of that age. From the reputation of his great learning, king Alfred invited him to his court; and he became an instructor both to that sovereign and to his children. Godwin says, that Alfred gave him the manors of Wellington, Buckland, and Lidyard, in Somersetshire, which afterwards came into the possession of the bishops of Wells³⁴: that king also bestowed on him two monasteries, viz. Banwell, in Somersetshire; and another, said to be Amesbury, in Wiltshire, but supposed by Tanner to have been Congresbury, in this district³⁵. Godwin places his death in 883, but the "Saxon Chronicle" expressly states, that Asser, who "was at Sherborne bishop, died in 910"³⁶. The principal writings attributed to him are a Chronicle of St. Neot's, a Life of King Alfred, Annals of Britain, and an Enchiridion: all which are in Latin. King Alfred, by his will, gave 100 mancuses to the Bishop of Sherborne, but makes no mention of his name.

Asser was succeeded by *Swithelm*, or *Sighelm*, but at what date is uncertain; the years 883, 884, 885, and 889 having all been assigned as the time. This prelate was sent to India by king Alfred, for the purpose of conveying to the shrine of St. Thomas the alms and oblations which that monarch had vowed to present whilst engaged in hostilities with the Danes at London. Dr. Vincent, when speaking of Sighelm's journey, in his "Voyage of Nearchus," says, "I wish I had more authority for this than the tradition of Sherborne; for Alfred deserves any honour that can be added to his name." The bishop's embassy, however, is attested by so many of our ancient Chroniclers that there is very little reason to question the fact, however extraordinary such a journey in that early age may appear. The "Saxon Chronicle,"

³³ Vide Wise's "Ann. Rer. Gest. Ælfredi Magni," auct. Asser. Menevens.

³⁴ "De Præsul. Angliæ." p. 332.

³⁵ "Notitia Monastica;" under Ambresbury.

³⁶ "An. DCCCCX.—and Ælfred biſcop-gefor þam. ge fær æt Seige-burhan biſcop." Whitaker, vide "Life of St. Neot," p. 222, et seq., concludes that Asser, bishop of Sherborne, and Asser, the monk of St. David's and friend of Alfred, were different persons.

Florence of Worcester, Radulph de Diceto, Brompton, Henry of Huntingdon, Alured of Beverley, Matthew of Westminster, and William of Malmesbury, all agree in their notice of the fact. Malmesbury, whose account is the fullest, thus speaks of the journey.—“Ever intent on almsgiving, Alfred confirmed the privileges of the churches, as appointed by his father; and sent many presents over sea to Rome, and to St. Thomas in India. Sighelm, bishop of Sherborne, was his ambassador, who with great success penetrated to India, to the admiration even of the present age. Returning thence, he brought back many brilliant exotic gems and aromatic juices, with which that country abounds; and also a present far more precious than the finest gold, part of our Saviour’s cross, sent by Pope Marinus to the king³⁷.” In another place he says, that some of those gems were to be seen, in his days, in the monuments of the church at Sherborne³⁸. The “Saxon Chronicle” although it mentions nothing of the jewels and aromatics brought back from India, is decisive as to the fact of the embassy³⁹. Nothing further is known of Sighelm, nor has the period of his decease been ascertained. He was succeeded by *Ethelwold*, or *Ethelward*, who is said, by Godwin, to have been a younger son of king Alfred, educated at Oxford: he died in 898. After his decease the see continued vacant for several years.

We are now arrived at the period when, according to the general current of history, the SEE OF WELLS was actually instituted: this was in the reign of Edward the Elder, the son and successor of the great Alfred; but the year is doubtful, some writers fixing it in 905, and others in 909, and 910. The immediate cause of this new division of the West Saxon states, in respect to ecclesiastical affairs, is attributed to an *interdict* which had been issued by Pope Formosus against the king and his subjects, for neglecting

³⁷ “De Gest. Reg.” p. 44.

³⁸ “De Gest. Pont.” p. 248.

³⁹ “A. D. 883.—The same year led Sighelm and Athelstan to Rome, the alms which king Alfred ordered thither, and also in India to St. Thomas and to St. Bartholomew.” Ingram’s edit. Gibbon says, “When the Portuguese first opened the navigation of India, the Christians of St. Thomas had been seated for ages on the coast of Malabar.” “Hist. &c. Rom. Emp.” vol. iv. p. 599. 4to. An interesting discussion as to the reality of Sighelm’s journey will be found in Turner’s “History of the Anglo Saxons” vol. i. b. 5. edit. 1807.

to supply the episcopal vacancies which had taken place in his dominions. The account of this transaction, as given by William of Malmesbury, is as follows :

“ In the year of our Lord’s Nativity 904, Pope Formosus sent letters into England, by which he denounced excommunication and malediction to King Edward and all his subjects, instead of the benediction which St. Gregory had given to the English nation from the seat of St. Peter; because for seven whole years, the entire district of the Gevisi, that is, of the West Saxons, had been destitute of bishops. On hearing this, King Edward assembled a council of the senators of the English, over which presided Plegmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, interpreting carefully the words of the apostolic legation. Then the king and the bishops chose for themselves and their followers a salutary council; and, according to our Saviour’s words, ‘ The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few,’ they elected and appointed one bishop to every province of the Gevisi, and that district which two formerly possessed they divided into five. The council being dissolved, the archbishop went to Rome with splendid presents; appeased the Pope with much humility, and related the king’s ordinance, which gave the pontiff great satisfaction. Returning home, in one day he ordained, in the city of Canterbury, seven Bishops to seven churches; Fridstan to the church of Winchester, Adelstan to Cornwall, Wirstan to Shireburn, *Athelelm to Wells*, Aidulf to Crediton in Devonshire: also to other provinces he appointed two bishops; to the South Saxons, Bernegus, a very proper person, and to the Mercians, Cenulph, whose see was at Dorchester in Oxfordshire. All this the Pope established, in such wise, that he who should invalidate this decree should be damned everlastingly ⁴⁰.”

⁴⁰ Malm. “ De Gest. Reg.” Sharpe’s translation, p. 146, 147. Malmesbury introduces his relation in the following manner, but he does not refer to the particular source of his information:—“ But to return to our Edward: I think it will be pleasing to relate what in his time Pope Formosus commanded to be done with respect to filling up the bishoprics, which I shall insert in the very words I found it.” Mr. Sharpe, in a note on Malmesbury, remarks:—“ This story of Pope Formosus and the seven Bishops is to be found, nearly verbatim, in a MS. (Bodley, 579) which was given to the Cathedral of Exeter by Bishop Leofric, who died A. D. 1073. Its difficulties

The Pope's missive is inserted at length in Wilkins' "Concilia"⁴¹, from Baronius, collated with the Canterbury Manuscript, A. fol. 3; but it makes no mention of the West Saxon kingdom having been without a Bishop during seven years; and even Lingard, though contending for the genuineness of the epistle, admits that story to have been "a fiction, invented probably to explain the origin of the complaint contained in the letter of Formosus"⁴²; which in substance was this, that, "by the negligence of the prelates, the superstitions of paganism had been permitted to revive, and several diocesses been left, for a considerable period, destitute of pastors"⁴³.

It is a very singular fact, that no account of the consecration by Plegmund, of seven Bishops in one day, can be found in the "Saxon Chronicle;" nor has any place been assigned for the meeting of the council or synod, in which the king and the archbishop are stated to have determined on the important act of creating three new Bishoprics. The causes generally assigned for this

therefore are not to be imputed to our author. But, though it be not easy to assign a rational motive for the invention of such an instrument, it is decidedly a forgery, and all the ecclesiastical writers from Baronius to Wilkins (see *Concilia*, vol. i. p. 201) have utterly failed in their conjectural attempts to uphold it: even the temperate, the acute, the learned Henry Wharton (*Angl. Sacr.* vol. i. pp. 554-5), who rejects decidedly the epistle, gives but an unsatisfactory solution of the seven vacant sees. Its repugnancies will be seen at a glance, when it is recollected that Formosus died A. D. 896: Edward did not reign till A. D. 901; and Frithstan did not become Bishop of Winchester before A. D. 910."

⁴¹ Vide, vol. i. pp. 200, 201.

⁴² "Antiquities of the Anglo-Saxon Church," p. 168, ed. 1810. "I ascribe the epistle to Formosus," says this writer, "not merely on the authority of Malmsbury and the Register of Canterbury, but principally on that of Eadmer, who, during the dispute respecting the precedency of Canterbury in the commencement of the twelfth century, appears to have consulted the ancient records of that church, and to have discovered this letter and some others among a greater number which age had rendered illegible. Eadm. Nov. l. v. pp. 128, 129."

⁴³ "A. D. DCCCCL. Edwardus cognomento Senior," &c. "eujus anno iv. sc. A. D. DCCCCLV. Formosus Papa propter magnam earentiam Episcoporum in Angliã per literas suas Apostolicas Regi et populo Anglorum directas maledictionem suam transmisit loco benedictionis, quam olim sanctus Papa Gregorius illuc transmiserat; eò quòd in pluribus locis Ecclesiæ Cathedralis in Angliã vii. annis fuerunt Episcoporum solatio destitutæ." See "Angl. Sacr." pars. i. p. 554. ex Canon. Wellensis de Epis. Bathon. et Wellens. It is clear that this account was wholly derived from Will. of Malmsbury; the Canon of Wells had never seen the epistle ascribed to Formosus.

measure are decidedly fanciful; for the *swineherd* Denulf, or Denewulf⁴⁴, whom Alfred had made Bishop of Winchester in 879, did not die until 909⁴⁵, nor Asser of Sherborne until the following year⁴⁶. Florence of Worcester and many of our best historians are silent respecting the letter of Formosus, which in itself, however, does not contain those chronological discordances which Malmesbury and others, by describing it as sent to Plegmund in the reign of Edward the Elder, and by confining a general complaint to the province of the Gevisi, have contributed to involve it in. The only names mentioned in it, are those of Formosus and Plegmund; nor is there any date either of the Incarnation or Indiction, to enable us to determine the year in which it was transmitted⁴⁷. The discriminating Johnson, in his "Collection of Ecclesiastical Laws," allows it to be genuine; though, with a departure from his usual acumen, he recommends the substitution of the name of Sergius for Formosus, remarking that it could be no wonder if the monks chose to report this papal act as done by Formosus, who was a popular Pope, rather "than by such a Monster of a Man, and Pope, as Sergius proved⁴⁸." The only way, perhaps, to reconcile the contradictory inferences, which this epistle has given rise to, is by concluding that it was actually written by Formosus, but in consequence of the distractions of the State, from the repeated invasions of the Danish hordes, not acted on till the year 909 or 910.

The Canon of Wells⁴⁹, who falls into the general error of the seven years destitution of episcopacy in Wessex, mentions the appointment, by King Edward and Plegmund, of four Bishops to the Sees of Dorchester, Selsey, Winchester, and Sherborne. He next states, that the said king and bishop also converted the three Collegiate churches of St. German, in

⁴⁴ Godwin "De Præsul. Angliæ," p. 207. ⁴⁵ Vide, Ingram's "Sax. Chron." p. 127. ⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ In the introduction to the Formosian Epistle, in the Canterbury Register referred to by Wilkins ("Concilia," vol. i. p. 200), the date stated is 905.

⁴⁸ Vide "Ecclesiastical Laws," vol. i. sub. A. D. 908. On that principle, however, all credit in antient ecclesiastical monuments would be destroyed; for if we admit that the monks would insert the name of one Pontiff for another, who might be held in greater repute, it becomes obviously impossible to determine the limits to which their falsifications might be extended.

⁴⁹ Vide "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 555.

Cornwall, of the Holy Cross at Crediton, in Devonshire, and of St. Andrew, at Wells, into Cathedrals; and that they made *Athelm*, Abbot of Glastonbury, the first Bishop of Wells, assigning to him all Somersetshire for his diocess; the time of these transactions he fixes in 905.

In the list of the Abbots of Glastonbury inserted in Dugdale's "Monasticon," the name of *Athelm*, *Athelmus*, or *Adelm*, thus variously written by different authors, does not occur; and Brompton positively affirms that at the period assigned, there was no such monk on that establishment⁵⁰. After the decease of Plegmund in 923, Athelm was advanced to the See of Canterbury, and he died in the following year. *Wulfhelm*, his successor both at Wells and Canterbury, is represented as a man of great sanctity and learning, and his presiding at several synods after his promotion to the archiepiscopal dignity in 925⁵¹, in which a code of civil and ecclesiastical laws was framed by King Athelstan and his council⁵², seems to confirm that character. He went to Rome in 927⁵³, and died in 938, having held the archbishopric thirteen years⁵⁴. Of his successor *Elphege*, *Elfège*, or *Ælfheah*, as he is called in the "Textus Roffensis," nothing is recorded but the name; nor is *Wulfhelm*, the next bishop, better known, though his subscription has been forged to a pretended charter of King Athelstan's to the monastery at Malmesbury. *Brithelm* or *Brihtelm*, the fifth bishop, a monk of Glastonbury according to Godwin, was raised to this See in 958. In the following year he was promoted to Canterbury; but although a good and prudent man, his temper was too mild for government⁵⁵, and he was prevailed on by King Edgar to relinquish his archiepiscopal see in favour of the celebrated Dunstan. He then returned to Wells, where he continued to preside till his decease, on the 15th of May, 973. He appears to have been

⁵⁰ Vide, "Dec. Scrip." col. 838.

⁵¹ "Saxon Chronicle."

⁵² Johnson's "Eecl. Laws," sub an. 925 et 926. Wilkins's "Concilia," vol. i. p. 20.

⁵³ "Saxon Chronicle."

⁵⁴ Malm. "De Gest. Pont." Wharton in his remarks on the entry of this prelate's death in the "Dies obituales Archiepis. Cantuar." says that Athelmus and Wlfelmus are frequently confounded by historians. "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 53.

⁵⁵ Godwin "De Præsul. Angliæ," p. 51.

the first prelate that was buried in this Cathedral. His memory is chiefly remarkable from his having made Glastonbury an archdeaconry⁵⁶, to be governed by a monk who should be chosen annually by the convent.

Kyneward, Abbot of Milton, became Bishop of Wells in the year succeeding Brithelm's decease. According to the "Saxon Chronicle," which calls him "*Cyneward*, the good prelate, of manners mild;" he died on the 18th of July, anno 975, ten days after the death of King Edgar: by other writers his decease has been incorrectly assigned to the year 985. *Sigar*, the next bishop, was Abbot of Glastonbury, to which he had been appointed in 972, and which he continued to hold, together with his See⁵⁷, till his decease on June the 18th, 997: in 995, as appears from the "Textus Roffensis," he subscribed to a charter granted by King Ethelred. *Alwyn*, *Adelwyn*, or *Ealwyn*, the next bishop, died about the year 1000⁵⁸. His successor *Burnold* is wholly unnoticed by William of Malmesbury; but he is found commemorated in the Martyrology of this Church, and his name is said, by the Canon of Wells, to be inscribed on a tomb here⁵⁹. He could have possessed the See but a short time; the name of *Livingus* or *Leovingus*, who is also called *Elstan* or *Elstaus*, his successor, being affixed to two charters of King Ethelred, dated in 1001 and 1002. He was promoted by that sovereign to the See of Canterbury in 1013, after the cruel murder of Archbishop Elphege by the Danes, at Greenwich, in the preceding year; he died in 1019, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," which characterizes him as "a very upright man before God and before the world." *Ethelwyn* or *Agelwinus*, Abbot of Evesham, was the next bishop, and his name is affixed to a charter granted by King Cnute to the Cathedral at Exeter in 1019⁶⁰. He was supplanted by *Brithwyn*, who, in 1023, assisted in removing the remains of Archbishop Elphege, who was eventually canonized, from the church of St. Paul, London, to Canterbury⁶¹. Brithwyn was ejected, in his turn, by Ethelwyn, but they both died soon afterwards, in 1026; the former

⁵⁶ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 557.

⁵⁷ Ibid. note b.

⁵⁸ Ibid. note h.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. p. 536. edit. 1819.

⁶¹ "Saxon Chronicle," p. 203, 204. Ingram's edit. King Cnute was present at the removal, with the Queen and most of his court.

surviving his brother prelate only thirteen days⁶²: they are reputed to have been buried in this Church. *Merchwit* or *Merewhit*, Abbot of Glastonbury, who is said to have been also called *Brithwin*⁶³, was next promoted to this See in 1027. He was a native of Loraine, and dying in 1033, according to the "Saxon Chronicle," but Malmesbury says in 1034, was interred at Glastonbury. *Dudoc*, or *Dudocus*, another native of Loraine, according to some writers, but others, including the Canon of Wells, say of Saxony in Germany, succeeded to the vacant bishopric, which he held during twenty-seven years seven months and seven days⁶⁴, and then dying, anno 1060, was buried in his own Church. This prelate, together with Wlfric, Abbot of St. Augustin's, and Elfwin, Abbot of Ramsey, was sent by King Edward the Confessor to the great Synod which Pope Leo had convened at St. Remy, or Rheims, in 1049; "with the intent that they should report to the king what was determined there concerning Christendom⁶⁵." He is said to have obtained from that sovereign the manor of Congresbury for himself and for his successors.

After the death of Dudoc, it is stated in the "Saxon Chronicle," that "*Gisa*, the priest, was appointed in his stead." This prelate, who is more generally called *Giso*, was a native of St. Trudo, a village in the district of Hasban, in Loraine. At the time of his appointment he was chaplain to King Edward the Confessor, by whom he had been sent, with other prelates, on a mission to Rome, for the purpose of having certain doubts resolved on the subject of religion. He was consecrated in that city on Easter day, viz. the 17th of the kal. of May, 1060⁶⁶, together with Walter, Bishop of Hereford; "they being men," says William of Malmesbury, "not only learned, but of good conversation, and not guilty of simoniacal practices⁶⁷." This praise is given to distinguish their conduct from that of Arch-

⁶² "Angl. Sacr. pars i. p. 558.

⁶³ Dugd. "Monasticon," vol. ii. p. 275.

⁶⁴ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 558.

⁶⁵ "Saxon Chronicle," sub anno 1049.

⁶⁶ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 559. Rad. de Diceto, "Dec. Scrip." col. 478, says 1061. The "Sax. Chron." Gibson's edit. assigns the decease of Dudoc to the year 1060; and with this the Museum MS. "Tiberius, B. iv." agrees. Godwin states that Giso was consecrated in 1059.

⁶⁷ "De Gest. Pont." lib. iii. Scrip. post Bedam, p. 271.

bishop Aldred, who had been advanced to the See of Canterbury, through the *purchased* influence of Earl Tosti, and was permitted by King Edward to hold the Bishopric of Worcester *in commendam*, by alleging the example of his predecessors. The Pope, however, had refused him consecration; and he was returning home, in great dudgeon, in company with the Earl and the other Bishops, when, on crossing the Alps, they were despoiled by banditti, “who left them neither horse nor money, nor any thing money-worth but their apparel⁶⁸.” This occurrence constrained them to go back to Rome “to furnish them anew for their journey.” When there, the indignant Tosti, “with open mouth exclaimed against the Pope, saying—‘there was no reason that farre remote nations should so greatly stand in awe of his excommunications, which theeves and robbers cared not a halfpenny for; but contemned openly and derided even under his nose, that among poor priests he would play *Rex*, but let rebellious varlets do what they list.” He also threatened that, if their losses were not made good by the Pope’s means, daily to importune the king, on his return, to grant them recompense “out of the tribute the Pope hath of England;” and added, “except he deserve it better, why hee should have any at all, I see not⁶⁹.” Through this bold language, and other importunities, he succeeded in obtaining the Archiepiscopal pall for Aldred, on the condition, however, that the latter should relinquish his Bishopric⁷⁰.

⁶⁸ Godwin’s “Catalogue of the Bishops of England,” p. 571.

⁶⁹ Ibid. p. 572. Malmesbury’s words are as follow—“*Tostinus* quippe gravibus verborum contumeliis Apostolicum aggressus in sententiam sibi placitam reduxit, parum metuendam à longinquis gentibus ejus excommunicationem, quam propinqui latrunculi deriderent. In suppliees enim furere, in rebelles parum valere; aut sua sibi per ejus auctoritatem reddenda quæ per ejus fraudulentiam constaret amissa: aut futurum ut hæc rex Anglorum audiens tributum sancti Petri meritò Nicolao subtraheret, se non defuturum rerum veritati exaggerendæ.” Godwin “De Præsul. Angliæ,” ex “De Gest. Pont.” lib. iii. Scrip. post Bedam, p. 271.

⁷⁰ It is not impossible but that the free and open remarks in which Earl Tosti indulged on this occasion, and which partook of the high spirit that distinguished the male branches of his family, was a leading cause of the decided support given by the Papal See to the projected invasion of England by William the Norman.

It is said by the Canon of Wells⁷¹, that when Giso entered upon his See, he found here but ten canons, or, as in another manuscript, only five⁷², who were reduced to beggary in consequence of the spoliations of Harold, Earl of Kent, by whom this Church had been deprived both of its ornaments and possessions. Godwin adds, but without referring to his authority, that the bishop “complaining unto the king of this outrageous havocke, found cold comfort at his hands; for whether it were for fear of Harold’s power, or his wives displeasure, he caused no restitution to be made; onely the queene was content to give of her owne Marke and Modesly unto the Church.” He further states that, after the death of King Edward, “Giso was faine to flye the land till such time as Harold the sacrilegious usurper being vanquished and slaine, William the Conqueror was a meane to restore, not onely him to his place and country, but his Church also, to all that the other had violently taken from it; except some small parcels that (I know not by what meanes) had been conveighed unto the monastery of Gloucester⁷³.” The Canon of Wells, from whom Godwin has derived the latter part of this account, mentions nothing of the flight of Giso, but states that William, soon after his coronation, restored to him all the possessions which Harold had taken away, except what had been given to St. Peter’s at Gloucester, and except Congresbury, Banwell, and Kilmington, and some others⁷⁴. Collinson, who has blended the statements, both of Godwin and the Canon, with assumptions of his own, says that when Harold was banished by King Edward, all his estates in Somersetshire were given by that monarch to the Church of Wells; but, that on recovering the king’s favour, Harold “in his turn, procured the banishment of Giso, and when he came to the crown, resumed most of those estates of which he had been deprived⁷⁵.”

⁷¹ “Angl. Sacr.” pars i. p. 559.

⁷² Ibid. marginal note.

⁷³ “Catalogue of English Bishops,” p. 361.

⁷⁴ “Angl. Sacr.” pars i. p. 559.

⁷⁵ “History of Somersetshire,” vol. iii. p. 378. In another part, this author says;—“When Harold came to the throne, he could not patiently observe his legal inheritance in the possession of others, nor allow the church the prerogative of retaining unfairly the revenues of the crown;

Notwithstanding the seeming particularity of these triplicated statements, they do not appear to have been founded upon any valid authority; and the annexation of Harold's estates to this See is equally as doubtful as Giso's banishment, and the Conqueror's restitution. Speaking of the origin of the account as inserted in the "*Anglia Sacra*," the editors of the new edition of the "*Monasticon*" remark that "there seems considerable reason to doubt its accuracy:" they observe, further, that at the time of the Domesday Survey, "the Church of Wells possessed but one manor which had belonged to Harold; and in proof that Harold confirmed to Giso all the privileges of the bishopric in their fullest tenure, we have the evidence of his own charter⁷⁶."

Bishop Giso was at the consecration of Archbishop Lanfranc, in August 1070, together with seven other Bishops; and in 1075, he was present at the great council, or synod, assembled in London by that prelate⁷⁷. He procured the restoration of several manors of which this Church had been dispossessed after the conquest. In his time, also, King William, in his eleventh year, restored Banwell to this See; and he afterwards granted the manor and

he therefore, having first condemned the Bishop to perpetual exile, retook his estates into his own hands, and held them till his death at the battle of Hastings." *Ibid.* p. 392.

⁷⁶ Dugdale's "*Monasticon*," vol. ii. p. 275; and *Num.* viii. p. 287. Edit. 1819. In this valuable work is given the transcript of a charter from the Cottonian MS. "*Tiberius*," E. viii. fol. 250, attributed to Edward the Confessor, and bearing date on the 20th of May, A. D. 1065; *Ind.* 3. In that instrument various places are mentioned as belonging to this church, the names of which do not occur in the list of its manors in the Domesday Book. Collinson, who has inserted a copy in his *Account of Wells*, introduces it thus:—"The ancient territories and predial possessions of this See appear in the subsequent charter of King Edward the Confessor to Bishop Giso (*"Hist. of Som."* vol. iii. p. 393);—and he afterwards states, that most of the lands named in it had been taken from Earl Harold by King Edward, and given to that Bishop." The obvious inconsistency of these accounts requires no comment; but it may be remarked in illustration, that if the charter be authentic, its date, viz. 1065, precludes the possibility of the estates mentioned being Harold's property; as, at that very period, he was in full possession of Edward's favour, and the chief depository of his power.

⁷⁷ Johnson's "*Eccles. Laws*," P. ii. anno 1075. Giso "was a great favourite of William the Conqueror as well as Edward the Confessor." *Ibid.* Note *h*. It is singular that Malmesbury does not notice Giso in his *Account of the Bishops of this See*; although he mentions his name in two or three other places.

church of Yatton to the bishop and his successors⁷⁸; but he bereaved the See of that part of Milverton which Queen Editha had bestowed⁷⁹.

This prelate augmented the number of the canons of Wells, and appointed a provost to rule over them: he also erected for their accommodation, a cloister, dormitory, and refectory. He died in the year 1088; and was buried here, on the north side of the altar.

When the Domesday Survey was made towards the close of Giso's pontificate, viz. in the years 1085 and 1086, the possessions of this See were found to be wholly in Somersetshire, and to have amounted to 280½ hides; the total rental of which appears to have been rather more than £315. The Bishop held *Wells* itself, called *Welle* in the record, and was assessed there in King Edward's time for fifty hides; besides two others which had not been taxed, and were worth thirty shillings: of these, fourteen hides, worth £12, were tenanted by the Canons of his church; twenty-two hides, worth £17. 10s., by other persons; and the remainder, worth £30, was retained by the Bishop. Of arable land, there were sixty carucates; of meadow, three hundred acres; of pasture, three leucæ (that is, miles) in length, and one in breadth; of wood, two leucæ in length, and two quarentenes (furlongs) in breadth; and of more-land, three leucæ. To the Bishop's part appertained six servants, twenty villains, fourteen borderers, or cottagers, fifteen ploughs, and four mills;—to that of the Canons, eight servants, sixteen villains, twelve cottagers, eight ploughs, and two mills;—and to the other Tenants, thirteen servants, twenty-two villains, twenty-one cottagers, twelve ploughs, and three mills.

Besides the above, the Bishop held twenty hides at Combe St. Nicholas, twenty at Kingsbury, eight at Chard, two at Leighland, fifteen at Wiveliscombe, fourteen at Wellington, ten, all but a virgate, at Bishop's Lydiard, thirty at Banwell, twenty at Evererech, six at Westbury, ten at Winsham, thirty at Chew-Magna, twenty at Yatton⁸⁰, including a pasture called *Waimora*, which had belonged to King Edward the Confessor's manor of Con-

⁷⁸ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 559.

⁷⁹ Collinson's "Hist. of Somersetshire," vol. iii. p. 14.

⁸⁰ Yatton, called *Latene* in the Domesday Book, is the only manor belonging to the See of Wells under which a Church is noticed in that record.

gresbury, and eleven at Wedmore. The record states, also, that the manor of Milverton, which was then in the king's possession, was, in the Confessor's time, held by Bishop Giso, who was assessed for it at a virgate, only. Aissa, afterwards called Ash-Priors, from having been granted to the Priory at Taunton, had been likewise held by Giso (as a part of Bishop's Lydiard), who was assessed at three hides and a virgate; but at the period of the Survey it was held by Roger de Arundel "de rege injuste."

Soon after the accession of King William Rufus a great change was made in the state of this See by *John de Villula*, who had succeeded Giso in its episcopal government. This prelate had been originally a priest at Tours, in France, of which place he was likewise a native; but having practised at Bath as a Physician, he obtained affluence, and is conjectured by Wharton to have purchased the See of Wells, with the profits of his profession, from Rufus, who was accustomed to dispose of ecclesiastical preferments⁸¹; but Malmesbury and other writers state that he was invested with this Bishopric in the time of the Conqueror. He destroyed the cloister and other edifices which Giso had built at Wells for the canons (who were forced to seek dwellings in the town), and in their place constructed a *Palace* for himself and his successors⁸². This, most probably, was in the very early part of his prelacy; as, either in 1091 or 1092⁸³ he transferred the episcopal seat from Wells to *Bath*, which, with all its appurtenances and privileges, he had purchased of the king. It would appear that his success at Bath, in his medical profession, had given him a predilection for that place, for he had likewise procured a grant of Bath Abbey, from Rufus, previously to his removal of

⁸¹ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 559, note r. "Johannes de Villulà, Turonensis Ecclesiæ Presbyter (sic enim in professione autogr. Lanfranco datâ appellatur) postquam maximos ex Medicinâ quæstus fecisset, Episcopatum Wellensem obtinuit, vereor ne nummis ex Medicinâ conflatis emerit." &c.

⁸² Ibid, p. 560.

⁸³ Ralph de Diceto says in 1091; but Rudborne and Matthew Paris assign the removal to the year 1092.

the See⁸⁴, for which removal he obtained the King's consent; Rudborne says "by bribery;" but Matthew Paris, more covertly, though with similar implication, by "*anointing his hand with white ointment*"⁸⁵."

Soon after the removal of the episcopal seat to Bath, Bishop Villula commenced the erection of a Cathedral in that city (on the site of the old church belonging to the abbey), which he completed from the foundations, and Maimesbury adds, "with a great and elaborate circuit of walls"⁸⁶." The same writer states, that the Bishop at first treated the monks of Bath very harshly, on account of their excessive ignorance, but that he afterwards behaved with more kindness, and filled the abbey with men eminent for literature and the discharge of their duties⁸⁷. The Canon of Wells says that he transferred the revenues of the abbatial table to his own, and dismissing the appellation of Bishop of Wells, caused himself to be called the first *Bishop of Bath*⁸⁸. He died in 1123, having possessed this See nearly thirty-six years, and was interred in his new Cathedral. In the "Decem Scriptorum" (col. 247), he is said to have expired, suddenly, on the day after Christmas day, of a pain in the heart; but in the "Anglia Sacra" he is stated to have died very old, on the 29th of December, in the above year. He was a man of considerable munificence; and whatever may have been his conduct to the monks in the

⁸⁴ The charter, by which St. Peter's Abbey at Bath was granted to Bishop Villula, expressly states that it was given to him, with all its appendages, in augmentation of the Bishopric of Somersetshire, and that he might fix his episcopal seat there. The following is an extract: "Quocirca ego Willelmus Willelmi regis filius, Dei dispositione monarches Britannia, pro meae meique patris remedio animae, et regni prosperitate, et populi a Domino mihi collati salute, accessi Johanni episcopo Abbatiam sancti Petri Bathonia, cum omnibus appendiciis, tam in villis quam in civitate et in consuetudinibus, illis videlicet quibus saisita erat ea die qua regnum suscepi. Dedi inquam ad Sumersetensis episcopatus augmentationem eatenus praesertim ut inibi instituat praesuleam sedem." Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. ii. Num. ix. p. 266. This charter bears date, on the 6th of the kal. of Feb. A. D. 1090; In. 13: but some writers suppose it to have been only a confirmation or enlargement of a former grant, it appearing from the "Register of Wells," quoted by Wharton, that the gift, or rather purchase, of Bath Abbey was first made in 1088.

⁸⁵ "Hist. Angl." p. 17, edit. à Watts.

⁸⁶ "De Gest. Pont." lib. ii. Scrip. post Bedam; p. 254.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ "Angl. Sacr." pars i. p. 560.

early part of his prelacy, he made them full amends long before his decease; for in a deed⁸⁹, granted in 1106, he not only restored their former lands, but gave them others which “ he had acquired by his own travail, or bought with his own money: he also, by the same instrument, appropriated the entire rental of the city of Bath to the completion of his church, and gave all his moveable property, of whatever description, to the monastery there. Leland, who has erroneously stated that it was from Henry the First that this prelate obtained permission to “ sette his Se” at Bath, thus speaks of his tomb: “ This *John* pullid down the old Church of S. Peter at Bath, and erectid a new, much fairer; and was buried in the middle of the Presbyteri thereof, whos Image I saw lying there an 9 Yere sins, at the which tyme al the Chirch that he made lay to wast, and was onrofid, and wedes grew about this John of Tours Sepulchre⁹⁰.”

⁸⁹ See the Deed (translated) at length, in the “ History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey Church,” 4to. p. 20. Some other particulars of Bishop de Villula, which more immediately relate to that foundation, are given in the same work.

⁹⁰ “ Itinerary,” vol. ii. p. 39; edit. 1744.

Chap. III.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE SEE AND BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS, FROM THE REIGN OF HENRY THE FIRST TILL THE PERIOD OF THE REFORMATION.

ABOUT the time of Easter, 1123-4, Henry the First bestowed the See of Bath on *Godfrey*, a Belgian, who was chaplain to the Queen (*Adeliza*), but not chancellor to the king, as Bishop *Godwin* erroneously affirms¹: he was consecrated on the 26th of August following, in the Cathedral of St. Paul at London. This prelate endeavoured to recover the lands and provostship of the Canons of Wells, which had been usurped by John the archdeacon, in the time of Bishop de Villula; but the archdeacon being aided by King Henry and Roger, Bishop of Sarum, he proved unsuccessful². He died on the 16th of August, 1135, and was buried in his Cathedral at Bath. In his time the valuable manor of Dogmersfield, in Hampshire, which afterwards became a summer residence of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, was granted to this See by the king.

Robert, a native of Normandy, and a monk of Lewes, whom Henry, Bishop of Winchester, had appointed to the temporary government of St. Swithin's, in that city, and afterwards deputed to regulate the affairs of Glastonbury Abbey, was next promoted to this See by the influence of the same prelate. During the contentions between the Empress Maud and King Stephen, this Bishop was unexpectedly seized, at Bath, by a party of the townsmen of Bristol, and imprisoned in Bristol Castle till the King had given

¹ Vide "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 568.

² Ibid.

his reluctant assent to his being exchanged for Geoffery Talbot, one of the Empress's most zealous partisans, whom the Bishop had previously arrested as a spy, and then held in durance.

After the removal of the episcopal seat from Wells to Bath, great dissensions arose between the canons of the former city and the monks of the latter, respecting this change of residence and the right of election; the canons affirming that the translation of the See by John de Villula "could not be held good, because it was made against their consent, with disregard of right, and without any necessity or legitimate cause³." Eventually, the dispute was referred to Bishop Robert, who, in a composition or decree (made ante anno 1139) still extant "in Registro *Drokensford*," enjoined "that the Bishops should neither derive their title from *Wells*, as in old, nor from *Bath*, as in modern times, but that in future they should take their names from both churches, and be called Bishops of BATH and WELLS; that the monks of Bath and the canons of Wells should, on a vacancy of the See, appoint an equal number of delegates, by whose united votes the Bishop should be chosen, (the Dean of Wells being the returning officer); that the Bishop elect should be enthroned in both churches, but first at Bath; that both their communities should form the Bishop's Chapter, and that all grants, &c. should be confirmed under their respective seals."

Some time afterwards this prelate, with the consent and by the aid of King Stephen⁴, made new regulations for the government of Wells Church, which he placed under the supremacy of a Dean, &c. instead of the Præpositus, or Provost, instituted by Giso: of this transaction Bishop Godwin gives the following account, from the "*Anglia Sacra*," and other authorities.

"Whereas a kinsman [John, the Archdeacon] of John de Villula being appointed by him Provost, by vertue of that office had withdrawn and converted vnto his owne vse, in a manner, all the reuenues of old belonging to the canons; with great labour and cost, at last, he [Bishop Robert] procured that all that had appertained vnto them to bee restored againe. And to take away all occasion of the like vsurpation, he thought good to divide the lands

³ "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. pp. 555, 556.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 561.

of the Church into two parts; whereof the one he assigned vnto the Chapter in common, and out of the rest he allotted to every cannon a portion, by the name of a Prebend. He also it was that first constituted a Deane to be the President of the Chapter, and a Subdeane to supply his place in absense; a Chaunter to govern the quier, and a Subchaunter under him; a Chancellour to instruct the younger sort of Canons; and lastly, a Treasurer, to looke to the ornaments of the Church⁵.”

During Robert's episcopacy, the city of Bath was destroyed by fire (July the 29th, 1137), together, according to Stow's "Chronicle," with St. Peter's Church there; but the Canon of Wells, without adverting to the latter circumstance, merely states that Bishop Robert completed the building of Bath Church, which John of Tours had begun⁶. From the same authority we learn that he substantially repaired the Church at Wells, the ruins of which, in many places, threatened destruction⁷; and that he dedicated it anew, in the presence of the Bishops of Sarum, Worcester, and Hereford. He likewise founded the two prebends of Jatton, or Yatton, and Huish-Episcopi. Having filled the see about thirty years, he died either in the year 1165 or 1166, and was buried with his immediate predecessors in the Cathedral at Bath.

After his decease, Henry the Second retained possession of this See for more than eight years, when he bestowed it on *Reginald Fitz-Joceline*, Archdeacon of Salisbury; who, though an Englishman by birth, was from education and surname regarded as a Lombard⁸. His father was Bishop of Sarum, and is said to have had this son before he was ordained. Reginald, at first, supported the claims of the arrogant Thomas à Becket, but afterwards changing to the King's side, he was sent ambassador to the Pope, in 1171,

⁵ "Catalogue of the Bishops of England," p. 363. Godwin adds, "The Subchauntership, together with the Provostship, an. 1547, were taken away and suppressed by act of Parliament to patch up a [new] Deaury; the lands and reuenues of the Deaury being deuoured by sacrilegious cormorants."

⁶ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. 561.

⁷ "Multas ruinas ejusdem Ecclesie destructionem ejus in locis pluribus comminantes egregie reparavit."—Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

to remove the suspicion of Henry being concerned in Becket's assassination. He was consecrated to this See on his return from Rome, by Richard, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the church of St. John, in the vallis of Moriana (Savoy), on the 23d of June, 1374, and was enthroned on the 24th of November following⁹. This prelate, who is described as a man of ability, and of many excellent qualities, was much addicted to hunting and hawking, and he obtained from Richard Cœur de Lion the confirmation of an alleged right of the Bishops of this See to keep dogs for sporting throughout all Somersetshire¹⁰. From the same King, previously to his departure for the Holy Land, he received the manors of North Curry, Wrantage, and West Hatch, which he gave to the Chapter of Wells, for their common emoluments. He also founded various new Prebends in the church of Wells; and having constituted the town of Wells a free borough, he exonerated the burgesses from all servile offices. In consequence of some services rendered to the monks of Canterbury, they were induced to elect him as their Archbishop, on the 27th of November, 1191; and he being present, they seated him by violence in the archiepiscopal throne; at first he strenuously, and with tears, refused to accept the proffered dignity; but on the following day, being asked whether he assented to the election, he answered "that so far was he from ambitious desire of that place, that it was a great griefe vnto him to bee chosen, and that he would bee very glad they would take some other in his roome: howbeit (quoth hee) if they will needs stand to their election, though with greefe and hearts sorrow, I must and will accept of the same"¹¹. The Pope's assent

⁹ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. pp. 561, 562, and note *u*.

¹⁰ "Ricardus," &c.—"Sciatis nos concessisse et presentis carta nostra confirmasse Rain. Dei gratia Bathon. Episcopo et ejus successoribus in perpetuum Canes suos ad Fugandum per totam Sumerset, sicut ipse vel aliquis antecessorum suorum eos unquam liberius habuit, videlicet ad capiendum bestias præter cervum et cervam, et damum et damam. Volumus etiam et concedimus quod ipse, et omnes successores sui, de omnibus bestiis in parcis suis fugatis si exierint, libere et quiete suum habeant percursum. Et ideo prohibemus ne quis prædictum Episcopum vel successores suos super hæc in aliquo disturbet, super decem libras forisfacturæ. Hiis testibus," &c. Vide Harl. MSS. No. 83. C. 10.

¹¹ Godwin's "Catalogue of the English Bishops," p. 100.

being afterwards obtained, Reginald prepared to take possession of his new See, but he was suddenly taken ill at his residence at Dogmersfield, and, putting on a monk's cowl, he died there on the 26th of December following. Three days after he was interred near the high altar in Bath Cathedral¹².

Savaric, the son of Goldwine, archdeacon of Northampton, and treasurer of Sarum, being elected to succeed Reginald by the monks of Bath, though without the consent or knowledge of the canons of Wells, he was ordained Priest on the 19th of September, 1192; and, as Wharton supposes, consecrated Bishop on the following day¹³. He was related to Henry the Sixth, Emperor of Germany, who, to oblige his kinsman, made it one of the conditions of the release of King Richard (who had been basely imprisoned by Leopold, Duke of Austria, on his way from the Holy Land), that the wealthy abbey of Glastonbury should be annexed to the diocese of Bath and Wells for its aggrandizement and advantage¹⁴. Henry de Solis, who was of the blood royal, and abbot of Glastonbury, was induced to consent to this arrangement on being promoted to the bishopric of Worcester; but the monks strenuously opposed it, though in vain. Stow affirms, on the authority of a record of Henry the Third's time, that Savaric procured the imprisonment of Richard, in order to annex Glastonbury to his See¹⁵; and the King is reported to have declared that the annexation of the abbey was extorted from him by force and terror¹⁶: but whatever the truth may be, in those respects, it appears that Richard employed the opportunity to induce this Bishop to surrender to him the city of Bath, which was then valued at £100. per ann. in exchange for Glastonbury. Having obtained his desire, Savaric, according to the Canon of Wells, transferred his episcopal seat to Glastonbury, and caused himself to be styled Bishop of that place¹⁷; but others state that

¹² Hoveden says he was buried at *Bæ*; for so Bath is denominated (vide *Scriptores post Bedam*, p. 405; B.) probably from some presumed analogy to the Roman *Baie*.

¹³ "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 562.

¹⁴ Vide Dugdale's "*Monasticon*," edit. 1819, vol. i. p. 5, from Johan. Glant.

¹⁵ See Stow's "*Chronicle*," p. 61.

¹⁶ "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 578.

¹⁷ "*Et se fecit Glastoniensem Episcopum publicè appellari.*" Ibid, p. 563.

he assumed the title of Bishop of *Bath* and *Glastonbury*¹⁸. He gave the archdeaconry of Bath to the prior and convent there, and having founded the Prebends of Ilminster and Long Sutton in the church of Wells, he died at Sciennes, on the 8th of August, 1205, and was interred at Bath. The following monkish rhymes, expressive of the rambling inquietude of his disposition, are said to have formed his epitaph¹⁹:—

Hospes erat mundo,—per mundum semper eundo,
Sic suprema dies—fit sibi prima quies.

Immediately after the decease of Savaric, the prior and convent of Glastonbury petitioned the Pope to restore them to their former state of independency of episcopal rule; but he refused their petition, on the ground that the See of Bath had, during its vacancy, no legal defenders of its rights.

In 1206, *Joceline de Welles*, called *Joceline Troteman* in the “*Annales de Margan*,” who had been made a Justice of the Common Pleas in 1204, was elected Bishop by the joint suffrages of the chapters of Bath and Wells, and he was consecrated in St. Mary’s Chapel, at Reading, on the 28th of May, in the same year. During his episcopacy, the monks of Glastonbury, after great exertions and a strong opposition of twelve years continuance on the part of Joceline, obtained, by appeal to the court of Rome, and the influence of the King, a dissolution of their enforced union with this See; yet not till they had agreed to surrender to the Bishop the valuable manors of Winescombe, Pucklechurch, Blackford, and Cranmore, together with the advowsons of several churches. This arrangement was confirmed by a bull of Pope Honorius the Third, dated at Rome, on the 16th of the kalends of June, 1218²⁰; and Joceline afterwards resumed the title of Bishop of *Bath and Wells*, which has ever since been used by the successive Prelates of this See.

Bishop Joceline having incurred the high displeasure of King John, by interdicting the nation, pursuant to the Pope’s command, in 1208, was soon

¹⁸ “*Anglia Sacra*,” pars i. p. 562, note x.

¹⁹ Camden’s “*Remains*,” p. 373.

²⁰ See Dugdale’s “*Monasticon*,” vol. ii. p. 269; Num. xix.

after forced into exile, and the King, during his absence, retained the temporalities of the Bishopric; the nett profits of which, in the fourteenth of his reign, anno 1212, when they were accounted for by his escheator, Thomas Peverel, amounted to £214. 14s. 6d.²¹

On the Bishop's return, after an exile of five years, he applied himself particularly to the improvement of the church of Wells. He obtained from Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, the valuable manors of Congresbury, Chedder, and Axbridge (to be held of the king for ever in fee farm), and annexed them to his See: in conjunction with that prelate he likewise founded the hospital of St. John, at Wells. He also established many new Prebends in this Cathedral; augmented the stipends of the chanters (whom he first styled Vicars-choral), and more equally distributed the revenues of the establishment among its various dignities and officers. But his principal work was the repair, or rather restoration of the Cathedral itself; which, according to the Canon of Wells, being "deformed with ruins, and almost level with the ground"²², he rebuilt, and dedicated anew on the 23d of October, 1239. He likewise erected a chapel in the bishop's palace at Wells, and another at Wokey, as well as other edifices. Having possessed his See nearly thirty-seven years, he died on the 19th of November, 1242, and was buried in the middle of the choir in Wells Cathedral. "No one," says the Canon of Wells, "had ever been like this man, and we have never seen a successor equal to him"²³. It appears that the church of Bath became subordinate to Wells in episcopal authority and regard, either in the time of this prelate or in that of his successor; and the Bishops henceforth seem to have fixed their residence, principally, at Wells.

²¹ Vide "Comp. Epis. Baton," de anno integro. Mag. Rot. 14. John, Rot. i. 6. By that instrument it appears that Bishop Joceline's establishment comprised a train of huntsmen, a noble pack of harriers, and thirteen other dogs of different descriptions; besides other articles of luxury, &c. According to Matthew Paris, Joceline dictated the oath taken by Henry the Third at his coronation at Gloucester; and, with Peter, Bishop of Winchester, crowned him.

²² "Jocelinus," &c.—"ipsamque Wellensem Ecclesiam vetustatis ruinis enormiter deformatam prostravit, et à pavimentis erexit dedicavitque:"—"Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 564.

²³ Ibid.

Roger, precentor of Sarum, was next elected by the monks of Bath, but this being done without the approbation of the canons of Wells, an appeal was made to the court of Rome; previously however to any decision the Bishop elect obtained the consent of the Pope to his consecration, on the plea that the church might otherwise suffer from remaining vacant. He was consecrated at Reading, on the 11th of September, 1244; and after a long suit the Pope determined that the right of choice was jointly in the two Chapters. The monks of Bath promising a stricter observance of the compact in future, Roger was permitted to retain his seat without more opposition. Having augmented the income both of the archdeacons and the canons of Wells, by certain appropriations during vacancies, he died on the 21st of December, 1247: or as others write, in January, 1248²⁴. According to the Annals of Worcester, the Pope appointed him Bishop of this See, on account of the dissensions between the two chapters of Bath and Wells²⁵. He was the last of the Bishops interred at Bath prior to the Reformation.

*William Button*²⁶, or *Bitton* (the first of that name), archdeacon of Wells, was next advanced to this See, by the mutual concurrence of the monks and canons, and he was consecrated at Rome on the 14th of July, 1248. In 1253, he was sent by Henry the Third into Spain, to negotiate a marriage between Eleanor, daughter of King Ferdinand, and Edward, Prince of Wales: he was also much employed by the King in other affairs. This prelate was engaged in a long dispute with his canons, in regard to the allotments from vacancies made to them by his predecessors, Joceline and Roger; but the parties being reconciled by the mediation of the metropolitan, the Bishop relinquished his claims. In the 41st of Henry the Third he procured from the King a charter of free warren for his manor of Wells. He died on the 3d of April, 1264, and was buried in this Cathedral, in the *new chapel* of the Virgin Mary²⁷.

²⁴ "Anglia Sacra," pars. i. p. 565.

²⁵ Ibid, p. 492.

²⁶ In Adam de Domersham, this prelate is called *William de Bucton*.—"Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 534.

²⁷ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 566. This Bishop was particularly attentive to the interests of his family and kinsfolk, whom he appears to have advanced to the principal offices of his church. William Button, his brother's son (afterwards Bishop) was Archdeacon of Wells; Richard

Walter Giffard, his successor, who was a canon of Wells and chaplain to the Pope, was elected on the 22d of May, 1264, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Paris, in the absence of Archbishop Boniface. In the same year (viz. 49th of Henry III.) he was Chancellor of England; and on the 15th of October, 1265, he was advanced to the archiepiscopal see of York²⁸, which he retained till his decease on the 25th of April, 1279²⁹.

William Button, or *Bitton*, the second Bishop of that name (who was nephew to the former) was elected on the 10th of February, 1267, and had his temporalities restored on the fourth of the month following. He was so much esteemed for his superior sanctity, that, as we are informed by Matthew Paris, he was chosen by Robert Kilwardby to consecrate him Archbishop of Canterbury, in preference to all others³⁰. He established some good statutes for the government of his diocess, and gave the manor of Bicknoller to the church of Wells. On his decease, December the 4th, 1274, he was buried in the southern part of Wells Cathedral; "*ubi*," says the Canon of Wells, "*ad præsens multis fulget miraculis*"³¹. His tomb has been since removed into the Lady Chapel; but it continued to be visited, even till after the Reformation, by many superstitious devotees, and particularly by those who were troubled with the toothach.

On the 23d of February, 1275, *Robert Burnell*, of the baronial family of that name, archdeacon of York, and a canon of Wells, was elected to the vacant See; and was consecrated at Merton, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 7th of April following. He was a man of eminent abilities; and being first treasurer and afterwards chancellor of England, was much

Button, precentor; Nicholas Button (the bishop's brother) treasurer; John Button (another brother) provost of Coomb and parson of Ashbury; and he was succeeded by a Thomas Button. There was also a Thomas Button, but whether the same or not is uncertain, who succeeded the above William in the archdeaconry; and afterwards became Bishop of Exeter.

²⁸ On this occasion the Bishop wrote, as follows, to the prior and convent of Bath:—"We give you notice that, from the day of the blessed apostle Thomas, we have ceased, and have taken upon us the care of the church of York."—Vide "Cartul. Bathon. in Bibl. Hospit. Linc." p. 96.

²⁹ He was buried in York Cathedral.

³⁰ Vide Matt. Paris à Watts, p. 1003.

³¹ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 566.

employed by Edward the First in Welsh affairs. His public offices enabled him both to enrich his family and to benefit the Church of Wells by various privileges, and confirmatory charters of former grants³². He also erected, on the west side of the episcopal palace, a great Hall, which was demolished in the reign of Edward the Sixth by Sir John Gates; who, as “a just reward for his sacrilege,” says Bishop Godwin, “soone after lost his head³³.” Dying at Berwick upon Tweed, on the 25th of October, 1292, he was buried in the nave of Wells Cathedral about a month afterwards. Wharton says that he surrendered to the King the patronage of Glastonbury Abbey, receiving in return additional privileges for the city of Bath.

William de Marchia, or *De la March*, who possessed the treasurership of England from the year 1290 to 1295, and was held in high favour by Edward the First, was next elected to this See, on the 30th of January, 1293; and consecrated on the 17th of May. He died on the 11th of June, 1302, and was interred here, in the south transept, between the door of the cloisters and the altar of St. Martin. At his tomb, says the Canon of Wells, many miracles were performed³⁴. Godwin states that the *Chupter house*, a “stately and sumptuous worke,” was built in the time of this prelate, “by the contribution of well disposed people.”

Walter Haselshawe, or *Hestelshagh*, Dean of Wells, was advanced to this

³² “Anglia Sacra,” pars i. p. 567.

³³ “Catalogue of English Bishops,” p. 369.

³⁴ “Anglia Sacra,” pars i. p. 567. Bishop Godwin, in his “Catalogue of English Bishops,” p. 369, has this passage:—“I have seene, amongst the records of our Church of Welles, the copies of divers letters vnto the Pope and Cardinals from the King, from divers of the nobility and the cleargy of that Church, commending this man so far foorth for his holines, testified (as they write) by many miracles; as they intreated very earnestly for his Canonisation. I marvell much at it; for Matthew of Westminster and Polidor Virgil complain grievously of him, as the author of a hainous sacrilege, in causing the King to spoile all the Churches and Monasteries of England, of such plate and mony as lay hoorded up in them, for the paiment of his souldiers. It was Edward the First, a prince that wanted neither wit to deuise, nor courage to execute such an exploit, and to lay the fault vpon another at last. Yet likely enough it is, that such a fault stamped vpon him (how vndeservedly soever) might bar him out of the Pope’s Calender, who otherwise was not wont to be over dainty in affoording that kind of honour where fees might be readily paid for it.”—Vide also MS. Harl. No. 6968, pp. 112 and 113, among the excerps from the Registers of Wells.

See on the 7th of August, 1302, and consecrated on the following 4th of November³⁵. He made various useful statutes for this Cathedral; and dying on the 11th of December, 1308, was buried in the nave, near the altar for the celebration of matins, or morning service³⁶.

John Drokenstord, the next bishop, was elected on the 5th of February, 1309, at which time he was keeper of the King's wardrobe and privy seal, and under-treasurer of the exchequer: he was consecrated on the 9th of November following, at Canterbury. The Canon of Wells states that he improved his Bishopric with many splendid buildings, and renewed and amplified the privileges of his Church³⁷; but Bishop Godwin, on the contrary, says that if he bestowed somewhat in increasing the buildings and liberties of his See, he lavished much more upon his kindred; and that he had much contention with his chapter³⁸. In his time, on the 2d of the kalends of February, 1325, an indulgence of forty days was granted to the contributors to the *new works of this Church*. He died at Dogmersfield, on the 13th of May, 1329, and was buried in St. Catherine's Chapel in this Cathedral.

Ralph de Salopia, or *Shrewsbury*, the succeeding Bishop, who was keeper of the King's wardrobe, and chancellor of the University of Oxford, was elected by the two chapters of Bath and Wells on the 2d of June, 1329: he was consecrated on the 3d of December following, by the Archbishop of Canterbury; but this having been done prior to obtaining the Pope's approval, it cost him, as stated by Walsingham, "a huge sum of money" before he could procure a full confirmation from the court of Rome. He was a munificent benefactor to his Church and diocess. "By great labour, and not a little expense, he procured from the King an exemption from the forest laws for the manors of Chedder and Axbridge. He destroyed by hunting, with the King's consent, all the wild beasts of Mendip forest; he surrounded

³⁵ Bishop Haselshawe was enthroned at Wells on Christmas Day, 1302; but not at Bath till the Epiphany following: which proves that the former Church had obtained the precedence. Vide Wharton's note, "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 567, note *f*.

³⁶ "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 567.

³⁷ *Ibid.* p. 568.

³⁸ Godwin, "*De Præsulibus Angliæ*," p. 375; edit. 1743.

the episcopal palace at Wells with a strong stone wall and a moat; he built [or rather founded] the Vicar's close at Wells, and vested it for ever in the Vicars-choral and their successors, to whom also he granted the manor of Welsleigh, and a yearly rent of twenty nobles out of the vicarage of Chew; he erected a house for the choristers and their master on the west side of the cloister; he rebuilt the church of Winscombe from the foundations; and he constructed the court-house at Claverton, together with a great chamber at Evercreech, and many other edifices upon the episcopal estates. He also procured, 'with great cost,' the disafforestation of the forest of Mendip, and gave many rich ecclesiastical vestments to his churches of Bath and Wells³⁹." He died at Wiveliscombe, on the 14th of August, 1363; and was buried before the high altar in the presbytery at Wells: but his tomb has been removed to the north side of the choir. The Harleian MS. (No. 6968) states that this prelate, in 1361, was excused from attending Parliament on account of his great age.

After the decease of Bishop Ralph, the monks of Bath elected *Walter de Monyngton*, abbot of Glastonbury, to this See; but as the chapter of Wells had not been consulted, his election was made void; and *John Barnet*, treasurer of England, was translated hither, from the See of Worcester, by a bull of Pope Urban the Fifth, on the 24th of November, 1363: his spiritualities were restored on the 7th of April in the following year. On the 15th of December, 1366, by another bull of the same Pope, he was removed to Ely; where he was buried, after his decease, at Bishop's Hatfield, on the 7th of June, 1373.

John de Harewell, LL. B. chancellor of Gascoigne and chaplain to Edward the Black Prince, was next raised to this See by papal authority; and he was consecrated at Bordeaux, by the archbishop there, on the 7th of March, 1366. He contributed two-thirds of the expense of erecting the south-west

³⁹ Vide "Anglia Sacra," pars i. pp. 568-9; and Godwin "De Præsulibus Angliæ," p. 377. Godwin says that, of the many things he gave to this Church, he believes that nothing remains but a great chest, bound with iron, in which the chapter seal is kept.

tower of the Church⁴⁰, the Chapter bearing the rest of the charge; gave the two great bells in the said tower, and paid one hundred marks towards the glazing of the west window. He likewise furnished the Church with a missal of twenty pounds value, and divers rich vestments. His will, dated June the 29th, 1386, was proved on the 20th of August following. He was buried before the altar of St. Calixtus in this Cathedral.

After the death of Harewell, a license to elect was issued, bearing date July the 16th, 1386 (10th of Rich. II.), and *Richard Medeford*, canon and prebendary of Wells being chosen, the King restored his temporalities⁴¹; but in the meantime the Pope, Urban the Sixth, having by his bull, dated August the 18th, in the above year, translated *Walter Skirlawe*, LL. D. from Lichfield to this See, Medeford was obliged to resign his new honours. Within two years after, viz. April the 3d, 1388, Bishop Skirlawe was translated to Durham, where he died; and was buried in the beginning of 1406. His executors, under the provisions of his will, presented vestments to this Church to the value of £150. for the celebration of his obit⁴².

On the same day that Pope Urban removed Skirlawe to Durham, by another bull he translated *Ralph Erghum*, or *Argum*, LL. D. Bishop of Salisbury, to this See; and his temporalities were restored on the 13th of September following, anno 1388. In the following year, as appears from the Patent Rolls of Richard II. he obtained a grant of all the lead mines within his diocess, which included the rich veins of the Mendip hills. Among his benefactions to the dean and chapter of Wells was a missal value twenty-two pounds; gold and silver plate to the value of eighty-two pounds; and a message in Wells called the *George*. He also founded a chantry in this Church for the souls of his parents and sister; and by his will directed

⁴⁰ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 570. Godwin says, "the third penny," *partem tertium*.—Speaking of the bells given by Harewell, the same writer states that the largest, which was four times re-cast since he was of this Church, "now at last serveth for the greatest of a ring, the goodliest for that number (being but five) (I thinke) in England."—"De Præsulibus," &c. p. 377; and "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 372.

⁴¹ Godwin, "De Præsulibus," &c. 378; note *i*.

⁴² "Anglia Sacra, pars i. p. 570.

his executors to build in the way, or road, then called *La Mounterye*, but now College Lane, in Wells, a house, or college, for fourteen priests. He died on the 10th of April, 1400; and was buried near St. Edmund's Chapel, in the nave of this Church.

Collinson states, that "This Bishop Erghum fortified the episcopal palace, surrounding it with a deep moat and an embattled wall, flanked by semicircular towers, as it stands to this day⁴³." He quotes, for his authority, the MS. "*Lib. Rub. Bathon.*" then in the possession of Viscount Weymouth, remarking, that Bishop Godwin, in his Commentary *de Prasulibus*, ascribes it, erroneously, to Ralph de Salopia. Whatever the truth may be, in respect to the real builder of the palace wall, Godwin is fully supported by the Canon of Wells in ascribing it to the latter prelate, as may be seen in the preceding account of Bishop Ralph⁴⁴.

Richard Clifford, archdeacon of Canterbury, and keeper of the privy seal, was, after Erghum's death, advanced to this See by Pope Boniface the Ninth; but Henry the Fourth, wishing to bestow the diocess on a more favoured adherent, refused his assent, and Clifford renounced his claims; for which prudential act he was made Bishop of Worcester in the following year.

Henry Bowet, LL.D. Canon of Wells, and Archdeacon of Lincoln, was then promoted to this Bishopric, in reward for his fidelity to the King, when Earl of Hereford; for which, in 1398, he was sentenced to perpetual banishment, after having been condemned to die, by Richard the Second. He returned to England with Henry, when he landed at Ravenspur, in October, 1399.

⁴³ "History of Somersetshire," vol. iii. p. 333.

⁴⁴ The *Ruber Codex Bathoniae*, during some part of the seventeenth century, was in the possession of Mr. John Packer, an alderman of Bath; and afterwards in that of Dr. Thos. Guidott, who, in 1703, gave it to Thomas, Viscount Weymouth; from whom it has descended to the present Marquis of Bath. It is fairly written on vellum, and contains sixty-nine leaves; the covers being of thick wood, coated with leather: in many instances the initial letters are elaborately ornamented. The contents are extremely various, viz. historical, legendary, medicinal, juridical, statistical, &c. It was written previously to the year 1428, with the exception of a few sentences of more recent insertion.

His temporalities, as Bishop of Bath and Wells, were restored on the 21st of September, 1401; and on the 20th of November following, he was consecrated in St. Paul's Cathedral, in the presence of the King himself, and most of the Lancastrian nobility. In 1402, he was made treasurer of England; and in the middle of the year 1406, he conducted Henry's daughter, Philippa, into Denmark, to be married to the Danish king. On the 7th of October, 1407, he was preferred by Gregory the Twelfth, with the King's consent, to the archiepiscopal See of York. He died at Cawood on the 20th of October, 1423; and was interred in York minster⁴⁵.

On the same day that Bowet was translated to York, *Nicholas Bubwith*, bishop of Sarum and treasurer of England, was advanced by the Pope to this See, viz. on October the 7th, 1407; and his temporalities were restored on the 1st of April in the following year. He was a circumspect and provident man, and, it may be presumed, of much talent, as he was one of the thirty ecclesiastics who were associated with the cardinals in the election of Pope Martin the Fifth. He contributed considerably towards the erection of the north-west tower of this Church, built the library over the eastern cloisters, and constructed a small chantry and monumental chapel within the Cathedral itself; wherein, after his decease, on the 27th of October, 1424, he was buried, having appointed three priests to celebrate a daily mass there for the good of his soul. He also founded an almshouse near the north side of St. Cuthbert's church, in Wells; and erected a small chapel in the church at Bath⁴⁶.

The succeeding Bishop was the erudite *John Stafford*, LL.D. dean of Wells, the ninth son of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, and afterwards Duke of Buckingham. He was greatly esteemed by Henry the Fifth, who made him keeper of his privy seal and one of his council. In December, 1422, he was appointed treasurer of England; and in December, 1424, he was elected Bishop of this See: he was consecrated on the 27th of May, in the church

⁴⁵ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 571. Ex Registris *Arundell et Bowit*. See "History," &c. of York Cathedral, for a view and an account of Bowet's tomb.

⁴⁶ Vide, Harleian MS. No. 6968, p. 38, 44; and Godwin "De Præsulibus," p. 379.

of the Fryers-Preachers, at London. In February, 1431-32, he was made chancellor of England, which high office he enjoyed for eighteen years, and then voluntarily resigned it from approaching infirmities. Previously, however, he had been translated from this See to Canterbury, by the "absolute authority," as Godwin states, of Pope Eugenius the Fourth; whose bull, bearing date on the 13th of May, 1443, was admitted by the King on the 6th of the following August⁴⁷. He died at Maidstone, on the 6th of July, 1452, and was interred at Canterbury.

Thomas of Beckington, or Bekyngton, LL.D. a man eminently learned himself, and a liberal patron of erudition in others, was next advanced to this See by the favour of Henry the Sixth; to whom he had been tutor, and who held him in great estimation. He took his surname (as was common with the clergy of that period) from Beckington, the place of his birth, a village near Frome, in Somersetshire. When a mere boy he was sent to Winchester to be instructed in grammar; and whilst there was noticed for his abilities and the comeliness of his person by the celebrated William of Wickham, who placed him in the college which he, Wickham, had founded in that city. Having highly distinguished himself in rhetoric and logic, he was removed to Wickham's new College, at Oxford; of which he became a fellow in 1408; and, having taken the degree of doctor of laws, he was, eventually, advanced, in 1442, to the chancellorship of that University⁴⁸.

Beckington obtained such high repute for his learning that he was employed at court to superintend the education of the young King, Henry the Sixth, by whose favour he obtained numerous preferments. Becoming dean of the arches, in 1430, he composed an elaborate Treatise in confutation of the Salique Law of France, and proving the right of the English sovereign to that crown⁴⁹; which was so well received by the government,

⁴⁷ "Anglia Sacra, pars i. p. 572. See, also, the "History," &c. of Canterbury Cathedral.

⁴⁸ Vide "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 573; and pars ii. p. 358. In the List of Chancellors of Oxford, given by Le Neve ("Fasti Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ") he occurs by the name of Thomas Gascoigne.

⁴⁹ Vide MS. Cotton. Tib. B. xii. "Opus collectum et compilatum per Ven. Patrem Thomam Bathon. et Wellens. episcopum et literis, allegationibus, conclusionibus, conventionibus, et trac-

that it greatly contributed to his subsequent promotion. He was appointed chancellor to Humphrey, duke of Gloucester; archdeacon of Buckingham; canon of York, in 1435; and, in 1439, canon of Wells: he was also made principal secretary of state, and keeper of the privy seal. In 1442, he was chosen one of the ambassadors who were sent to negotiate the marriage of Henry with Margaret, the daughter of René, titular king of Sicily, Naples, and Jerusalem;—and after the translation of Bishop Stafford to Canterbury, he was nominated to this See; to which he was consecrated on the 13th of October, 1443, in the old collegiate church at Eaton, near Windsor.

Many munificent acts were performed by this prelate both at Wells and other places with which he had been connected. He gave two hundred pounds towards the building of Lincoln College, at Oxford⁵⁰; and “as himself professeth in his wil,” expended six thousand marks “upon the repaying and beautifying” of the Episcopal houses of his own diocess⁵¹; on most of which he caused his Rebus, or device, to be sculptured, viz. a *Beacon* upon a large cask, or *Tun*. He also erected the western walk of the cloisters of Wells Cathedral; and built a monumental and chantry chapel for himself on the south side of the choir, in which he lies buried; his decease occurring on the 14th of January, 1464-65. By his will, bearing date on the 3d of November in the preceding year, he bequeathed to this Church twenty

tatibus, nonnullisque aliis negotiis et materiis concernentibus jus et titulum regis Angliæ ad regnum et coronam Franciæ; cum aliis multis quæ ea occasione secuta sint.” Folio. Another of his Manuscripts, formerly in the same library, was destroyed by the fire at Ashburnham House, in 1731. In the Archbishop of Canterbury’s palace, is a Collection of his Letters on State Affairs. Vide Cod. MSS. Lambeth. No. 211. And, in the same library, Cod. MS. Wharton. No. 585, p. 311, is an expostulatory Letter from this prelate to the Duke of Somerset. See also “*Anglia Sacra*,” pars i. p. 573.

⁵⁰ With this benefaction the rector’s lodgings, on the south side of the great quadrangle, were raised; and Thomas of Rotherham, Bishop of Lincoln, the second founder of Lincoln College, from motives of gratitude, instituted and endowed a fellowship there for persons born in the Diocess of Wells, investing it with all collegiate privileges, except eligibility to the rectorship and sub-rectorship. It is at present held by the Rev. F. Scurray, a native of Beckington, and author of a descriptive poem on “*Bidcombe Hill*,” &c. a distinguished eminence in Wiltshire.

⁵¹ Godwin’s “*Catalogue*,” &c. p. 375.

pounds for repairs; four very costly vessels; four hundred pounds to purchase copes; a vessel of silver, weighing ten pounds, for holy water; a silver cross, "parcel gilt," of similar weight; a chair (of stone) for the bishop's use in the church, which yet remains; cushions, and other ornaments. He likewise gave other legacies to the church at Bath; to New College, Oxford; Winchester College; St. Katharine's Hospital, at London; and various other places; and to his successor in the bishopric he left one hundred pounds, on condition that he should accept it in lieu of all dilapidations; but otherwise directing that his executors should expend it in law. All his unappropriated property he left to be employed in "good uses," at the discretion of his executors, who bestowed it chiefly in completing the Vicar's close, which had been commenced by Ralph de Salopia.

Among Beckington's other benefactions to Wells was the building of a row of houses called the *Nova Opera*, on the north side of the market-place, and two large gate-houses at the east end. He also granted to the corporation and citizens permission to have a reservoir, or conduit⁵², near the high

⁵² The Bishop's grant is to this effect:—"To all faithful people in Christ, to whom this present writing indented shall come, Thomas, by Divine permission, Bishop of Bath and Wells, greeting, in him who for the gift of a cup of cold water bath promised eternal life, Forasmuch as we know that some of ye faithful doubt but that those things which we sow on earth, with regard to eternity, we shall be certain to gather in heaven with multiplied increase; and, as we may express ourselves by copious handfulls, We, therefore, Thomas de Beckington, by Divine permission, the undeserving minister of the churches of Bath and Wells, most earnestly desiring, while time is allowed us upon earth, to labour for all people, but more especially for our nearest and most dear sons William Vowell, master, and the brethren and fellow citizens and burgesses of our city or borough of Wells, do grant to the said, &c. to have and to hold, for ever, of the Bishop and his successors, one Head for a water-conduit, with troughs, pipes, and other necessary engines above and under ground, to be supplied from a certain water within the precincts of our Palace, called St. Andrew's Well, by pipes of lead twelve inches in circumference, &c. the overplus, or waste water, to run night and day for the supply of the Bishop's mills:"—The said Vowell, the citizens and burgesses binding themselves in return "to visit, once every year, the spot in Wells Cathedral where Bishop Thomas should be interred, and there pray for his soul and the souls of all the faithful deceased:"—for which service the same Prelate granted them an indulgence of forty days.

In the "Anglia Sacra" are some particulars of the life of Bishop Beckington, chiefly taken from the "Panegyrick" of Thomas Chaundler (who was Chancellor of Oxford in 1457 and 1472) on William of Wickham. They are given dialogue-wise, in florid language, but not altogether

cross there, to be supplied by pipes from St. Andrew's Well, within the precincts of the episcopal palace; and the grant was confirmed by the respective chapters of Bath and Wells, on September the 20th, 1451.

Beckington's successor was *John Phreas*, or *Free*, who was master of Baliol College in the year 1462. According to Bale, he was born in Lou-

inegant. The principal parts are here translated: it will be seen that they relate to the Cathedral establishment of Wells as well as to the Bishop. Chamdler ascribes the building of the episcopal palace to Beckington, with whom he was a contemporary, and most probably on terms of friendship; yet that is not entirely correct: the palace was repaired, not rebuilt by him, and a new tower or gatehouse added, together with a cloister leading to the great hall; but those have long since been destroyed. The speakers are Ferrandus and Panestius.

Ferrandus. "Having wandered over the hills, and through valleys, where the dirt and mire are plentiful, from the beautiful and sublime University of Oxford, we have entered into this little village, O most delightful companion, Panestius. After so long a journey, I wish to rest a little: these limbs are so weary that, doubtless, if I had not supported myself with a staff, I should have fallen to the ground."

Panestius. "You should call it a city rather than a village, which would be more evident to you, could you see all the beauty and neatness that is within it. That most beautiful Church, which we discern at a distance, consecrated to Andrew, the most pious apostle of the immortal God, contains the episcopal chair of a worthy priest. It has also, adjoining to it, an extensive Palace, adorned with wonderful splendour, surrounded with flowing waters, and crowned with a fine row of turreted walls, in which dwells the most dignified and learned prelate, *Thomas*, the first of that name. This man, by his sole industry and disbursements, raised this city to its present state of splendour:—fortifying the church in the strongest manner with gates, towers, and walls, and building the palace in which he lives, with other edifices, in the most sumptuous style; so that he not only merits to be called the founder, but more deservedly the grace and ornament of the church.

"That the clergymen here are religious in their manners, honest in their lives, noble in hospitality, affable and agreeable to strangers, and to all benevolent, you will first discover from observation, and then learn from experience; for they are accustomed to wait on strangers and travellers with every office of humanity, and they seem to contend who shall first invite any one, and prevail on him to partake of their hospitality. The urbanity of the inferior clerks, whom they call vicars, the order and concord of the citizens, the just laws, the excellent polity, the delightful situation of the place, the neatness of the dwellings, the intrinsic prudence of the people, and the adornment, honour, and pleasantness of the whole, both make and ornament this city; the name of which is Wells (*Fontana*) so called by its antient inhabitants from the fountains gushing out in every part."

Ferrandus. "You said just now that *Thomas*, a very worthy and learned man, presided over the church,—in what learning is he skilled?"

don, and educated at Oxford, where he acquired great skill in the Greek and Latin languages, after which he visited various continental universities⁵³. During his journey he practised physic at Ferrara, Florence, and Passan; and arriving at Rome, he became acquainted with the most eminent literati of that city, and was introduced to Pope Pius the Second, who advanced him to

Panestius. “When he was in his tender years, a boy of good natural parts, he was sent to Winchester to be instructed in grammar; and, at his very outset, he had so much eloquence in discourse, elegance of person, perspicacity of intellect, and gravity of manners, that all who beheld him foretold that he would become a bishop. But when, at length, that most pious and prudent manager, William of Wyckham, the founder of the leading clergy, turned his eyes upon him, perceiving, by the wonderful dispensation of God, to what dignity the boy would attain, and of what utility the same would be to his Colleges (nothing important intervening) by his mere motion and sole mandate had him taken to Winchester College; where, studying grammar and rhetoric, he in a short time surpassed both equals and superiors; and for his merit was translated thence to Oxford College. In the flower of his youth he surpassed his elders; and he was created the most eloquent doctor of laws in the kingdom of England. He might be considered an old man in understanding; and his memory was strong. He held the principles of logic (which a young man should learn before the civil laws and philosophy, and which he had acquired by hearing and reading) so strongly in his remembrance, that if you were to hear him discourse, you would suppose him to be one of the most learned of the philosophers in scholastic learning. Thus was he planted, and thus watered by the showers of the liberal arts and laws; and he was so skilled in the Divine Scriptures, that whatever difficulty might seem to oppose, either by the wonderful perspicuity of his intellect, or by the industry of his scientific erudition, he would easily solve it. Should you hear him speak either in public or private, you will be delighted to find what eloquence is mingled with his discourse. Never did I know any one weary of his eloquence, so sweetly and so artfully he concludes all things. O, this is a happy country, over which such a worthy priest presides! Born and educated in the same, he chose his surname from the village from whence he sprung, that he might be called Thomas of Beckington in common. Of the poor and the clergy, a lover; and always carrying bowels of compassion for the miserable. Happy priest! who dries the tears of many whom he never saw. He also has the greatest friendship for learned men and philosophers. Now let us go down to his house, for I experienced his kindness four years, when he was chancellor of Oxford.—He was so strenuous in carrying on affairs that, at the first look, by his nod alone he could quiet abominable outrages. He was affable to all; and it was his continual study to be loved by all: just as much as other men desire riches and honour, so did he desire to engage the affections. Thus he, a wise and prudent man, and a lover of peace, endeavoured to enrich other men.”—“*Anglia Sacra*,” pars ii. pp. 357, 358.

⁵³ “*Illustrium Magnæ Britanniaë Scriptorum*,” &c. Cent. 8. c. 33.

this Bishopric; but he died at Rome, within a month after his appointment, not without suspicion of poison⁵⁴.

Richard Stillington, LL.D. archdeacon of Taunton, dean of the chapel royal, and keeper of the privy seal, was next promoted to this See by Edward the Fourth, with whom he was greatly in favour, and "under whom he flourished in great authority." He was consecrated by the Archbishop of York, at York House, Westminster, on the 16th of March, 1466. On the 8th of June, 1468, he was made chancellor of England, which office he held till the year 1473. He was a faithful adherent of the house of York, and much engaged in the tumultuary proceedings of his time. Edward employed him in several embassies, and particularly in that to the Duke of Bretagne to prevail on him to deliver up the person of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh; "in which business," says Godwin, though unsuccessful, "hee so bestirred himself, as that his double diligence therein proved afterwards his overthrow⁵⁵." The same writer states that he temporized with Richard the Third, and "was a man specially employed in his coronation." On the exaltation of Henry the Seventh, in 1485, he was forbidden the court, and, about two years afterwards, was accused of treason for his real or supposed concern in the conspiracy of Lambert Simnel. The Bishop took refuge at Oxford, seeking protection from the privileges of the university; but the King caused him to be arrested in October, 1487, with the consent and connivance of the Chancellor⁵⁶, and he was committed prisoner to Windsor Castle, where he remained till his decease, about Midsummer, 1491. He was buried at Wells, in a small chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which had been built by himself, in the eastern part of the cloisters.

⁵⁴ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 574.

⁵⁵ "Catalogue," &c. p. 377.

⁵⁶ "The then Chancellor was John Russell, Bishop of Lincoln, who was the first that possessed the Chancellorship for life.—Thomas Cornish, whom Le Neve calls "titular Bishop of Tyne," was constituted Suffragan Bishop of Wells by Bishop Beckington, in 1459; and he held that appointment for fifty-four years, till his death in July, 1513. He had been elected master of Oriel College, Oxford, in February, 1492-3; and chancellor of Wells, in April, 1499. Vide Le Neve's "Fasti Ecclesiæ," &c. p. 486; and "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 575.

“ In that Chappell,” says Godwin, “ his body rested but a short time: for it is reported that divers olde men, who in their youth had not onely seene the celebration of his funerals, but also the building of his toombe, chappell, and all, did also see toombe and chappell destroyed, and the bones of the Bishop that built them turned out of the lead in which they were interred.” The Chapel was destroyed by Sir John Gates, in the time of Edward the Sixth⁵⁷.

Richard Fox, LL.D. the succeeding Bishop, was translated from Exeter on the 8th of February, 1491-2, by a bull of Pope Innocent the Eighth, and his temporalities were restored on the 4th of May following. He was a great and deserved favourite of Henry the Seventh, whose interests he had zealously maintained, and with whom he had been an exile on the continent. His abilities for state affairs were of the highest order, and he was employed in several foreign embassies of great importance. He was made keeper of the privy seal, secretary, and one of the council, immediately on Henry's attaining the crown; and shortly after his return from Scotland, whither he had been sent to negotiate a peace, in the second year of that King, he was advanced to the See of Exeter, in April, 1487. Godwin intimates that he was born at Grantham, in Lincolnshire; in which place, and also at Taunton, in Devon, he founded a free school. He was educated at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge; of which he was elected master in 1507; but he had previously taken his degree of Doctor of Laws at Oxford⁵⁸. About the end of the year 1494, he was translated from Bath and Wells to the bishopric of Durham, and thence, in 1502, to Winchester, where he continued till his decease in extreme age, in 1528; after having been blind several years. He was buried in Winchester Cathedral, the eastern part of which fabric was repaired and partly rebuilt by him⁵⁹ in an elegant style, probably from his own designs;

⁵⁷ It appears from the Tower Records, that in the 18th of Edward the Fourth, the Parliament passed an act absolving Bishop Stillington from all treasons he might have incurred during the contest between the rival Houses of York and Lancaster.

⁵⁸ Vide “ De Præsulibus,” &c. p. 235.

⁵⁹ For the particulars of his works there, see “ The History and Antiquities of the See of Winchester,” p. 68, 94, and 96.

as his skill and taste in Pointed architecture are said to have been very eminent. Among other examples of his munificence was the foundation of Corpus Christi College, at Oxford, in 1516, which he did by the advice of Bishop Oldam, of Exeter, who persuaded him rather to erect a college than to endow a monastery, as was his first purpose.

The successor of Bishop Fox was *Oliver King*, LL.D. who was translated from Exeter to this See on the 6th of November, 1495, and he was enthroned at Wells on the 12th of March in the following year. Very little is recorded of his early life; but Godwin says that he was brought up in King's College, Cambridge, of which he afterwards became a fellow. He was eminent both as a divine and a politician; and, according to the inscription on an oaken screen near the monumental and chantry Chapel, which he erected for his own burial place, in St. George's Chapel at Windsor, he was principal Secretary to Prince Edward (son of Henry the Sixth), the Kings Edward the Fourth and Fifth, and King Henry the Seventh: he was also Registrar of the Order of the Garter. This prelate founded a new Abbey Church at Bath, and he is reported to have been induced to that munificent undertaking by a dream, or vision⁶⁰. He died, however, before the completion of the building; and from the occurrence of the Reformation, and other circumstances, it was not finished till the reign of James the First. His decease occurred on the 29th of August, 1503; but the place of his interment, whether at Bath or at Windsor, has not been satisfactorily ascertained⁶¹.

Adrian, or *Hadrian de Castello*, a native of Corneto, "a poore fisher towne" in Tuscany, whom Pope Innocent the Eighth had sent on a legantine mission to James the Third, King of Scotland, in 1488, succeeded Bishop King in this diocess. Godwin states that he was of mean, "or rather very base" parentage; but by his attention to study, and through his virtue and good deserts, he rose, "by many degrees," to his eventual eminence. On his arrival in London, he was informed that the Scottish King had been killed

⁶⁰ For a full account of Bishop King's new Building see "The History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey Church," in which its principal architectural features are illustrated by views, elevations, and details.

⁶¹ Further particulars of the life of Bishop King are given in the work just referred to; as well as an inquiry into the place of his burial.

in battle; he therefore refrained from pursuing his journey. Becoming acquainted with Archbishop Morton, that prelate, from admiration of his talents and discreet carriage, recommended him to the King, Henry the Seventh, who constituted him his Proctor, for the dispatch of all his causes at the court of Rome; and afterwards, in 1502, he advanced him to the See of Hereford, in reward for his fidelity and good conduct. About the same time, Pope Alexander the Sixth promoted him to the rank of Cardinal, by the title of St. Chrisogonus, he having before been appointed the Pope's general Treasurer in England, and principal Secretary. In these stations he amassed considerable riches, which exciting the avarice of that monster of iniquity, Cæsar Borgia, Alexander's son, he devised a scheme to poison him with medicated Falernian wine; but, from an accidental circumstance, both Borgia and his father partook of the deadly draught (August the 18th, 1503) instead of the destined victim⁶². In August, 1504, Cardinal Adrian, with the King's consent, was translated from Hereford to this See, by Pope Julius the Second; and he was enthroned at Wells, by proxy, on the 20th of October, Polydore Virgil, the Sub-collector of the Papal revenues, acting as his substitute on that occasion. It does not appear that the Cardinal was in

⁶² The circumstances of this event are thus related by Godwin, "Cæsar Borgia, the Pope's sonne, hoping to make a prey of the same [his riches], determined to poyson him, and accordingly provided certaine flagons of poysoned wine to bee brought vnto the Cardinal's vineyard, where the Pope had appointed to sup, giving great charge vnto the messenger, that no body should meddle with the wine before himselfe came. Howbeit the Pope comming in very hote and weary, sooner than he was expected, and calling for drinke, when as yet no provision was brought to the place; the messenger thinking the wine brought by him to bee some excellent and choice stuffe reserved for the Pope's own cup, filled out the same vnto him. While he was yet drinking, in came his sonne, who, not perceiving the error, pledged his father. The Pope (as being thirsty) tooke a great draught, and moreover being very aged, died the next day. His sonne being yōng, and happily not taking so much, applying also convenient remedies, recovered, but lay sicke very long, which was the cause of his utter overthrow at the last. Thus died that monster of his age, Alexander the Sixth. And thus by his owne divelish device came this Borgia to his destruction, whom Machiavel in his workes so much magnifieth. Guicciardini (that writeth this story) sayeth, that by the like practise he and his father had made away divers other before that time, as namely, the Cardinals of Capua and Mutina, men very loving and faithfull vnto them. At last it pleased God in this sort to serve them of their owne sauce, and to bring them into the pitte they had digged for others." Vide "Catalogue," &c. p. 380. This account of the death of Pope Alexander has been disputed by some writers, but, apparently, without sufficient cause, as

England after this promotion, but on the contrary, he let out the profits of his diocess to farm; till at length, in July, 1518, he was excommunicated, and deprived of all his dignities, in consequence of engaging in the conspiracy of Alfonso Petruccio, and other Cardinals, against the life of Leo the Tenth. He is said to have been induced to join the conspirators by the prediction of a Witch, who prophesied that after Leo's death Adrian should be Pope⁶³; but the "word of promise," if kept "to his ear," was "broken to his hope," the Adrian that succeeded Leo being a Dutchman. Petruccio was put to death, but the other Cardinals were spared on acknowledging their guilt. On Adrian a fine of 12,500 ducats was imposed, which being unable to pay, he withdrew from Rome; and, according to Godwin, was "never eyther seene or heard of afterwards⁶¹:" but other writers have stated that he took refuge among the Turks, in Asia. Polydore Virgil extols his talents and learning, and says that he was the first since the age of Cicero who revived the purity of the Latin language, and taught men to draw their knowledge from the best and most learned authors.

During the latter part of Adrian's time, the revenues of this See were rented by the famous Cardinal THOMAS WOLSEY, whose splendid and pre-eminent talents had advanced him from the humblest ranks of society to the highest offices both of church and state. To enter into any particular detail of his history would be to abstract from the annals of the realm a considerable portion of its most important materials for a long and eventful period

other reputable historians have attested it, besides Guicciardini. The insatiable avarice of Pope Alexander gave rise to the following pointed epigram:—

Vendit Alexander claves, altaria, Christum,
Vendere jure potest; emerat ille prius.

Christ's altars, keys, and Christ himself,
Were barter'd by this Pope for pelf!
And who shall say he did not well?—
That which he bought he sure might sell.

⁶³ P. Jovius, in "Vita Leonis," l. 4, p. 77. See also, "Anglia Sacra," pars. i. p. 577; and Godwin, "De Præsulibus," p. 387.

⁶⁴ Godwin's "Catalogue," &c. p. 382; and "Anglia Sacra," *ut supra*. Adrian is said to have erected a magnificent Palace at Rome, bequeathing it to Henry the Seventh (whose name was inscribed upon the front of it) and his successors. Vide "Biographia Britannica."

preceding the Reformation: a brief sketch of his life must, therefore, suffice in this place, and which is now given from a consideration of the conspicuous part that Wolsey acted on the public stage, and to compensate for the short notice that was taken of him in the *History and Antiquities of York Cathedral*⁶⁵. He was the son of a butcher, and born at Ipswich, in Suffolk, in the year 1471. Being educated in Magdalen College, Oxford, he proceeded Master of Arts, and was elected a Fellow of that society. In 1500, the Marquis of Dorset, to whose sons he had been tutor, preferred him to the benefice of Limington, in Somersetshire. Whilst there, his conduct is reported to have been so irregular, that Sir Amias Pawlet caused him to be "set in the stocks," for a breach of the peace; but Godwin adds, "upon little or no occasion"⁶⁶. On the death of his patron, Wolsey quitted his living, and went to Calais, where he was hospitably entertained by an aged knight, named Sir John Naphaunt, who made him his chaplain; and by whose interest he was subsequently appointed Chaplain to the King, Henry the Seventh. "Now was he," says Godwin, "where he would be. Many times he was wont to say (as I have heard) that if he could once set but one foote in the Court, he would not doubt but attaine what he list. And to speak but the truth, it was not onely his good fortune that exalted him in that wonderfull greatnesse, but much deale his owne industrie, and many extraordinary parts in him. He was marvellous wittie, well learned, faire spoken, and passing cunning in winning the hearts of those whose favor hee affected"⁶⁷. With those qualities there can be no surprise that he should so soon have advanced himself in the King's esteem; and his vast dispatch, in successfully negotiating some

⁶⁵ Few public characters have been so much the subject of biographical and critical comment as Cardinal Wolsey. Exclusive of the ample details in our general English historians, his "Life and Times" have been separately narrated by—1. Thomas Storer, in verse, in a quarto volume, 1599;—2. Another quarto volume, by Sir William Cavendish, in 1641;—3. An octavo volume, in 1708, by William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle;—4. A folio volume, in 1724, by Dr. Fiddes;—5. Joseph Grove published four volumes, octavo, 1742;—6. An octavo volume, by George Cavendish, in 1767;—7. In 1812 a quarto volume appeared, by J. Galt, which has been since printed in octavo;—8. An inquiry, "Who wrote Cavendish's Life of Wolsey?" appeared in quarto, 1818 [by the Rev. Joseph Hunter];—9. In 1824 appeared an octavo volume, by George Howard, on the Cardinal and his Times.

⁶⁶ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 618.

⁶⁷ *Ibid*, p. 619.

business with the Emperor Charles the Fifth, in the Low Countries (which, "winde and weather favouring him," he is reported to have done, and to have returned to Court within four days after receiving his instructions), so effectually won Henry's favour, that he was shortly afterwards made Dean of Lincoln, and appointed the King's Almoner. The accession of Henry the Eighth proved the means of his exaltation to further dignities: "he soone crept so farre" into the good graces of the young King, "by applying himself to his humour, as he possessed him altogether, and in a manner at the first dash was made one of his Privy Counsell⁶⁸." His celerity in the dispatch of business, his vast abilities, and the magnificence of his living, which completely accorded with Henry's own disposition, secured to him an accumulation of honours and of power that has but few parallels. His elevation was so rapid and so great, and his mode of living so princely, that the most ancient and honourable families were eclipsed by his state and influence. For many years the direction of public affairs was wholly intrusted to his guidance, and until the agitation of the great question of the King's divorce awakened all the evil passions of Henry's mind and heart, he governed with almost regal ascendancy. In respect to preferments, he was, as the immortal Shakspeare has truly represented, "a man of an *unbounded stomach*;" but he expended his immense revenues with profuse generosity, and the extent and grandeur of his establishments evinced both the greatness of his spirit and the towering reach of his ambition. In 1512, the King conferred on him the proceeds of the Bishopric of Tournay, in Flanders; early in the ensuing year, viz. on the 8th of the ides of February, 1512-13, he was promoted to the See of Lincoln; and the 17th of the kalends of October following he was raised to the metropolitanical See of York. About the same time, Pope Leo the Tenth appointed him his *Legate a latere*; and shortly afterwards, September the 7th, 1515, he made him a Cardinal. This was quickly followed by his promotion to the Chancellorship of England; and "then," says Godwin, "as though the Archbishopricke of Yorke, and the Chauncellorship, were not sufficient for maintenance of a Cardinall, he tooke also unto him the Bishopricke at Bathe, holding it and the Abbey of St. Albon's, with divers

⁶⁸ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 619.

other ecclesiastical livings, *in commendam*." His appointment to this See took place on the 30th of July, 1518; and the temporalities were restored to him by the King on the ensuing 28th of August. The great honours which Wolsey had now obtained only increased his desire for further distinctions, and on the decease of Pope Leo, in December, 1521, he became a candidate for the supreme tiara. Being disappointed in his hopes, he received as a compensation from the Emperor a pension of nine thousand crowns of gold; and his own sovereign conferred upon him the rich Bishopric of Durham, to accept which, in April, 1523, he resigned the See of Bath and Wells. After the death of Adrian the Sixth, in December the same year, he made a second attempt to obtain the Papacy, but without success. In 1529, he exchanged Durham for Winchester, which was the last of his promotions, for he soon afterwards lost the favour of the King; who, being dissatisfied with his conduct respecting the divorce from Queen Katharine, caused an indictment to be preferred against him in the King's Bench, on the Statute of Provisors; and but for the grateful offices of Cromwell, afterwards Earl of Essex, he would have suffered an attainder in Parliament. His fall proved yet more rapid than his elevation; and, notwithstanding the abjectness of his submission to his implacable master, he was reduced to such extreme penury that "he had scarce a cuppe to drinke in, or a bed to lye in, but what was lent him; for his moueables and household stuffe of inestimable valew were all taken away to the King's use." After a lapse of some months, Henry appeared to regard him with a gleam of returning favour; but whilst he was endeavouring to reconcile himself to his reduced fortunes in his castellated palace at Cawood, in Yorkshire, his capricious sovereign caused him to be arrested, and he was hurried towards London. Falling ill, however, on the road, of a flux and fever (which are supposed to have sprung from the agitation of his mind), he was permitted to stop at Leicester Abbey, where he died, within eight days, on the 29th of November, 1530; and he was there buried. His last words are reputed to have been these:—"If I had served God as diligently as I have done the King, he would not have given me over in my gray hairs; but this is the just reward that I must receive for the pains and study that I have had to do him service, not regarding my service to God, so much as the satisfying of his pleasure."—This munificent,

but, in many instances, too haughty Prelate, commenced the foundation of two noble Colleges, the one at Ipswich, his birth-place (which was afterwards suppressed), and the other that of Christ Church, Oxford, which still flourishes. For the endowments of these Colleges, independently of what he bestowed from his own stores, he obtained the Pope's licence to dissolve forty small monasteries, "which opened a gap withall," says Bishop Godwin, "to King Henry to destroy all the reste; as soon after he did"⁶⁹.

The successor of Wolsey was *John Clarke*, D. D. who had been educated in the University of Cambridge, and was the King's Proctor and Orator at the Court of Rome. He had been made Dean of Windsor in 1519, and was admitted into the Privy Council either in that or the following year. On the 20th of October, 1522, he was made Master of the Rolls; and in the spring of the following year he was advanced to this See, the temporalities of which were restored to him on the 2d of May. He was a prelate of great learning and considerable diplomatic talents, which occasioned Henry the Eighth frequently to employ him in foreign embassies. In the year 1540, he was sent ambassador to the Duke of Cleves, "to tender a reason of the King's divorce from the Lady Anne of Cleves, his sister;" but whilst in his court he was taken ill (from the effects of poison, as supposed), and returned with difficulty to his native land. On his decease, shortly afterwards, viz. January the 3d, 1540-1, he was buried, according to Weever and Godwin, in the Church of the Friars' Minors, near Aldgate; but Bishop Kennet, in his MS. *Diptycha*, says that he was interred in the Church of St. Botolph, Aldgate. In his time the Reformation took place: all the Monasteries were suppressed; Papal predominancy was abrogated, and the King declared to be the Supreme Head of the English Church.

⁶⁹ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 622. "Surely," says the same author, "it were a wonder that any private man should take two such peeces of worke in hand at one time (whereof any one might seeme a great matter for a Prince to finish), had not his receipts beene infinite, and his helps otherwise very great. I thinke verily (and am able to yeeld good reason of my surmise) that if one man had now in his hands the reuenues of all the Bishopricks and Deaneries also in England, his rents would not arise to so high a reckoning as the yeerely receipts of this Cardinall."

Chap. III.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE SEE AND BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS, FROM THE PERIOD OF THE REFORMATION TO THE YEAR 1824.

WITHIN a few months after the decease of Bishop Knight, WILLIAM BARLOW, D.D. was translated from St. David's to this See, through the influence of the Protector, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and by the Letters Patent of Edward the Sixth, dated February the 3d, 1548¹. He had previously been a Canon of St. Osyth, Prior of Bisham, and Bishop of St. Asaph; from which latter diocess he was promoted to St. David's in April, 1536. Like many of his predecessors, this prelate was eminent for his talents and learning; but he has been accused of unwarrantably alienating the possessions of his See, and of dismantling the ecclesiastical buildings both at Wells and at St. David's, from motives of personal aggrandisement and rapacity. There is not, however, any sufficient foundation for this harsh charge; nor was Barlow a whit more guilty than many of his episcopal brethren, who, from the peculiar circumstances of the times, were *constrained* to submit to spoliations which they dared not resist without endangering both their own safety and the loss of the whole of their diocesan revenues².

¹ " Rymer's Federa," tom. xv. p. 159, 1st edit.

² Bentham, the late historian of Ely, speaking of a period only a few years subsequent to Barlow's episcopacy at Wells, makes the following judicious remarks in extenuation of what Browne Willis had styled " sacrilegious alienations :"—" Had these alienations been the voluntary acts of the Bishops, the censure had been justly laid; but, as the law then stood, the Queen [Elizabeth] had it wholly in her power to make those exchanges; and might, I conceive,

Collinson states that, when the Protector returned victorious from the Scottish wars, the King bestowed on him a large gratuity for his services out of the lands and possessions of this Bishopric; "insomuch that the liberty, borough, and manor of Wells, the hundred of Wells-Forum, the manors of Wookey, Banwell, Chew-Magna, Blackford, Wellington, Cranmore, and Evercreech; the borough of Wellington, the hundreds of Winterstoke and Chew; as also the parks of Wells, Banwell, and Evercreech, with all their appurtenances, were at one stroke alienated from the Bishopric to the said Duke of Somerset, his heirs, and assigns: Barlow, then Bishop of the See, acquiescing in the disposal of them, upon the duke's promise of two thousand pounds, and the Dean and Chapter confirming the Bishop's deed³." Shortly after the above alienation, namely, on the 20th of May, 1548, this Prelate consigned, by license, to the King a further and very considerable portion of the demesnes and manors of his See, together with "his messuage called *Bathe Place*, formerly the *Myneryes*, without Aldgate, London;" the

have taken to herself, had she so pleased, all the estates of all the Bishoprics in England, by way of exchange, without asking the consent of the Bishops." See "History," &c. "of the Cathedral Church of Ely," edition 1800, p. 196.—Now the law, as it regarded the power of the Sovereign or his Council, to make alienations, was equally as strong in Edward the Sixth's time as in Queen Elizabeth's; and Barlow could no more have resisted the will of the Protector Somerset, than many other Prelates could that of the Queen; for, as Bentham has truly said, "there was not a Bishopric in the kingdom (except perhaps *Bristol*, *Gloucester*, *Oxford*, and *Peterborough*, which had nothing to spare,) from which she did not at some time take to herself a considerable part, and, generally speaking, the best and most valuable part of their possessions; giving them in exchange, as she might legally do, either the tenths of the clergy, or rectories improper."—But Barlow's character may be still more directly vindicated than by inferential deduction; for in the very first year of Elizabeth's reign, and whilst he was yet only Bishop elect of Chichester, he united with four others, who were in similar situations, viz. Parker, of Canterbury; Grindall, of London; Cox, of Ely; and Scory, of Hereford, in a strong petition to the Queen, praying her, among other grievances, to "*remitte*" the "alterations and exchange," which was then taking place in respect to tenths and improper rectories, and offering "an annual pension of one thousand marks" for the required exoneration. It may, therefore, be fairly argued that Barlow did not willingly consent to the alienations for which he has been so much abused; nor yet promote the ravages and dilapidations which, in his time, befell the Cathedral establishment at Wells.

³ "History of Somersetshire," vol. iii. p. 395. In his account of Wellington, vide *Ib.* vol. ii. p. 482, Collinson refers the "License to alienate;" to the 2d of Edward VI.

site of the Hospital of St. John, at Wells; and various farms, advowsons, hereditaments, and other possessions of his See, in exchange for certain rectories, churches, &c. which had previously belonged to the Abbeys of Glastonbury and Bath; but all of which are said to have been “a very insufficient consideration for the lands thus shamefully dismembered from the Bishopric⁴.”

It appears from a “Latin relation,” quoted by Sir John Harington, but without sufficient distinctness to enable us to refer to the work itself, that Bishop Barlow was married, and had a numerous offspring; that one of his sons had a Prebend in Wells Cathedral; and that “he bestowed his five daughters on five most worthie men, of which three are Bishops at this houre; and the other, for their merit, are in men’s expectation designed to the like dignitie hereafter⁵.” From the same work Harington says, that Barlow was deprived for his marriage, “and lyved as a man banished in Germany⁶.” That deprivation took place on the accession of Queen Mary; but, on her decease, November the 17th, 1558, he returned to England, and was nominated Bishop of Chichester; the See of Bath and Wells having, during his exile, been given by Mary to Gilbert Bourne. He died, according

⁴ “History of Somersetshire,” vol. iii. p. 395, 396.

⁵ Vide “Nugæ Antiquæ,” vol. ii. p. 144, Park’s edition; in which it is stated in a note that, in 1608, all the five persons on whom Bishop Barlow had bestowed his daughters, had been made Bishops. The Latin work alluded to by Sir John Harington was not Godwin “De Præsulibus,” as supposed by Park; there being no information of the kind in that publication. Could it have been Godwin’s “Nuncius Inanimatus in Utopia; et Catalogus Episcoporum Bathoniensium et Wellensium;” which was published in 8vo. 1629, and afterwards translated into English, anno 1657, by the learned Dr. Thomas Smith? It appears from Wood, that the name of Barlow’s wife was Agatha Wellesbourne; and that his daughters were married to the following Prelates:—1. Anne, to Herbert Westphaling, Bishop of Hereford; 2. Elizabeth, to William Day, Bishop of Winchester; 3. Margaret, to William Overton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; 4. Frances, to Tobie Matthew, Archbishop of York; 5. Antonia, to William Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester. “Athenæ Oxonienses,” edit. by Bliss, vol. i. col. 365.

⁶ Wood states that, upon Queen Mary’s coming to the crown, in 1553, Barlow “was deprived of his Bishopric for being married, and committed for some time to the Fleet; whence, escaping, he retired with many others into Germany, under pretence of religion, and lived there in a poor and exiled condition.” Ibid.

to Le Neve, in August, 1568, and was interred in his own Cathedral: but Godwin assigns his decease to the year 1569.

The spoliations that were committed here during the episcopacy of Barlow are thus related and descanted on by Harington:—"Scarce were five years past after Bathes ruins, but as fast went the axes and hammers to work at Wells. The goodly hall, covered with lead (because the rooffe might seeme too low for so large a roome) was uncovered; and now this rooffe reaches to the sky. The Chappell of our Lady, late repayred by Stillington, a place of great reverence and antiquitie, was likewise defaced; and such was their thirst after lead (I would they had drunke it scalding) that they tooke the dead bodies of Bishops out of their leaden coffins, and cast abroad the carkases skarce throughly putrified. The statues of brass, and all the auncient monuments of Kings, benefactors to that goodly Cathedrall Church, went all the same way, sold (as my author wrytes) to an alderman of London, who, being then rich, and, by this great bargaine, thinking to have increast it, found it like *aurum Tholosanum*; for he so decayd after, no man knew how, that he brake in his mayoraltie. The statues of Kings were shipt from Bristoll; but, disdayning to be banisht out of their own countrie, chose rather to lie in St. George his Channell, where the ship was drown'd.—These things were, I will not say done, I will say, at least, suffered by this Bishop; but I doubt not but he repented hereof, and did penance also in his banishment, *in sacco et cinere*⁷."—This Prelate was the author of several Tracts against the abuses and rites of the Roman Catholic Religion.

⁷ "Nugæ Antiquæ," vol. ii. p. 147. In the following page the author says—"There remayne yet in the bodie of Wells Church, about thirty foote high, two eminent images of stone, set there (as is thought) by Bishop Burnell, that built the great hall there in the raigne of Edw. I.; but most certainly long before the raigne of Hen. VIII. One of these images is of a king crowned, the other is of a bishop myterd. This king, in all proportions resembling Hen. VIII. holdeth in his hande a childe falling; the bishop hath a woman and children about him. Now the old men of Wells had a tradition, that when there should be such a king and such a bishop, then the Church should be in daunger of ruine. This falling childe they said was King Edward; the fruitful bishop they affirmed was Dr. Barlow, the first maryed Bishop of Wells, and perhaps of England. This talke being rife in Wells, in Queen Marye's time, made him rather affect Chichester at his return, that Wells, where not only the things that were ruind, but those that

Gilbert Bourne, or *Bourn*, D.D. was, by the appointment of Queen Mary, elected to this See on the 28th of March, 1554; and, having been consecrated on the first of April, in St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, he had his temporalities restored on the twentieth of the same month. He was a native of Worcestershire, and either nephew or brother to Sir John Bourne, who became principal Secretary of State to Queen Mary. He was entered a student at Oxford in 1524; and, in 1531, he was elected a fellow of All Souls College in that University. He had the reputation of being a good orator and disputant. In 1541, 33d of Henry VIII. he was appointed one of the first Prebendaries of Worcester; and two years afterwards was admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Divinity; about the same time he became Chaplain to Bishop Bonner, "and a preacher against the heretics of the times⁸." On the 7th of July, 1549, he was installed Archdeacon of Bedford; at which time he appears to have favoured the tenets of the Reformation; but "in the beginning of Queen Mary's reign he turned about, and became so zealous for the Roman Catholic cause that, preaching at Paul's-Cross in behalf of the said Bonner, then present, against his late unjust sufferings, and against the unhappy times of King Edward VI., as he called them, he had a dagger thrown at him by one of the auditors; whereupon, Bourn withdrawing himself to prevent farther danger, the work was carried on by another⁹."

remained, served for records and remembrances of his sacrilege." The images alluded to in this passage are not statues, but busts: they are attached to the wall of the nave, between the arches and the triforium; and are represented in the engraved title-page to this Work; figures 4 and 5.

⁸ "Athenæ Oxonienses," by Bliss, vol. ii. col. 805.

⁹ *Ibid.* According to Holinshed, the above event occurred on the 13th of August, 1553, when Bourne, "taking occasion of the gospell of that daie, spake somewhat largelie in the iustificing of Bishop Bonner, being present at the sermon, which bishop (as the said preacher then openlie said) for a sermon made upon the same text, and in the same place, the same daie foure yéeres afore passed, was most vniustlie cast into the vile dungeon of the Marshalsea among theeves, and there kept during the time of King Edward's reigne. This matter being set forth with great vehemencie, so much offended the eares of part of the audience, that they brake silence, and began to murmur and throng together in such sort, as the maior and aldermen, with other of the wiser sort then present, feared much an vprore. During which muttering, one more feruent than his fellowes threw a dagger at the preacher; but who it was, came not to knowlege. By reason of which outrage the preacher withdrew himselfe from the pulpit; and one maister

Soon after his appointment to this Diocess, Bishop Bourne was constituted President of Wales, and Queen Mary regarded him with great favour; but after the accession of Elizabeth he was deprived of his Bishopric for refusing to acknowledge the supremacy of that Princess, and committed to the "free custody" of "Master Carey," or Carew, Dean of her Majesty's Chapel, and afterwards of Exeter. He then "gave himself up wholly to reading and devotion"¹⁰; till his decease, at Silverton, in Devonshire, on the 10th of September, 1569. He was buried near the altar in Silverton Church.

The "nonage," says Godwin, "of that good King Edward the Sixth, giuing opportunity to those horrible sacriledges that robbed the Cathedrall Churches of England of (I dare say) the one halfe of that they possessed, had beene an occasion of the vtter ruine and destruction of this See, if Bishop Barlow, taking advantage of the death of some men in the latter end of King Edward, and Bishop Bourne, making vse of the zeale of Queen Mary, in tendring the state of the Church, had not beene the means of recouering what is now left vnto the same, even the lands of the Bishopricke, in a manner enery whit; all the land belonging to the Archdeacon of Wells, and some land of the Chapter, to wit, the parsonages of Dulverton and Longsutton"¹¹.

According to Collinson, the annual value of the lands recovered by Bishop Bourne was three hundred and thirty-two pounds, eighteen shillings, and elevenpence. They included the manors of Wells, Chard, Huish Episcopi, Wookey, Evercreech, Cranmore, Combe, Banwell, Chew, Cheddar, &c.; but the Bishop could not obtain this restitution till he had consented to alienate to the crown the manors of Congresbury and Yatton.

Bradford, at the request of the preacher's brother and others standing there, tooke the place, and spake so mildlie to the people, that with few words he appeased their furie: and after the said maister Bradford and maister Rogers, although men of contrarie religion, coueied the said preacher into Paules Schoole, and there left him safelie."—"Chronicles," vol. iv. p. 3, edit. 1808. It is a curious fact that both Bradford and Rogers, who thus quelled an incipient riot which might have shaken Mary's throne from its basis, were afterwards burnt at the stake for their religion in the sanguinary reign of that bigoted Sovereign.

¹⁰ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. ii. col. 806.

¹¹ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 384.

After the deprivation of Bourne, Queen Elizabeth caused *Gilbert Berkeley*, S. T. P. a descendant of the noble family of the Berkeleys, in Gloucestershire, but a native of Norfolk, to be elected to this See on the 29th of January, 1559-60. He was consecrated at Lambeth on the 24th of March following; and had his temporalities restored on the 10th of July, 1560. Scarcely any thing is known of this Prelate, although he governed this Diocess nearly two and twenty years. Sir John Harington, speaking from the Latin treatise already noticed, says, "I can add of this Gilbert but a worde, that he was a good justicer (as saith the same author, '*nisi quatenus homo uxorius conjugis importunitate impulsus a veri ac recti tramite aberravit*'), saving that sometimes being ruled by his wife, by her importunitie, he swerved from the rule of justice and sinceritie; especially in persecuting the kindred of Bourne, his predecessor. The fame went that he dyed very rich; but the same importunate woman caryed it all away, that neither Church nor the poore were the better for it¹²." Bishop Berkeley died on the 2d of November, 1581; and was buried on the north side of the altar, in his own Cathedral.

After his decease the Bishopric remained vacant almost three years, when the Queen bestowed it on *Thomas Godwin*, D. D. Dean of Canterbury, who was then in the sixty-seventh year of his age, he having been born in 1517, at Okingham, in Berkshire. His parentage was humble, and he was taught the rudiments of education at the grammar-school in his native place, where his talents attracted the attention of Dr. Richard Layton, Archdeacon of Bucks, and afterwards Dean of York, who, having in his own house instructed him in classical learning, had him entered a student of Magdalen College, Oxford, about the year 1538, and supported him there till his own decease, in 1544. In the following year Godwin, being then B. A., was elected a fellow in the above College, and, in 1547, he proceeded M. A.; but about two years afterwards he exchanged his fellowship for the rectory of the free-school of Brackley, in Northamptonshire; his brother collegians, who were mostly papists, having rendered his situation unpleasant. Whilst at Brackley

¹² "Nugæ Antiquæ," vol. ii. p. 150.

he studied both divinity and physic; in which latter faculty he obtained the degree of M. B. in 1555, having been forced to quit his school, and resort to the practice of medicine for support, by the religious persecutions of Queen Mary's reign. Wood states that when Mary came to the crown, "he was silenced, and in a manner put to his shifts¹³;" and Fuller says, "Bonner threatened him with *fire* and *faggot*, which caused him often to obscure himself, and remove his habitation¹⁴." In the beginning of Elizabeth's reign he received both holy orders and his first ecclesiastical preferment from Dr. Bulyngham, Bishop of Lincoln, who made him his chaplain, "and being a chief instrument of his preaching before the Queen, she approved him and his person so well, that she thereupon made him Dean of Ch. Ch. in Oxon, in June, 1565: so that taking the degrees of divinity the same year, and being esteemed much by all for his learning and piety, he was made Dean of Canterbury, in the place of Dr. Nich. Wotton, deceased, an. 1566¹⁵." The Queen also appointed him one of her Lent preachers; and was so much pleased by his discourses that, during eighteen years, she continued him in that office. In 1575 he was made one of the ecclesiastical Commissioners for the due regulation of the Church. On the 10th of August, 1584, he was elected to this See, and consecrated on the ensuing 13th of September. Harington says, "He came to the place as well qualified for a Bishop as mought be; unreprouvly without symonie, given to good hospitallity, quyete, kynde, affable, a widower, and in the Queene's very good opinion, *non minor est virtus quam quærerere parta tueri*¹⁶." But he unfortunately lost her Majesty's favour by a second marriage with a widow; which was bruited in her ears as "a match of the devil's making," being done "for covetousness and not for comfort." Yet, "himself protested to me," Harington affirms, "with teares in his eyes, he tooke her but for a guide of his house; and for the rest (they were his

¹³ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iii. col. 827.

¹⁴ "Worthies," vol. i. p. 90; edit. 1811.

¹⁵ "Athenæ Oxonienses," *ut sup.* Fuller says, "He was an eloquent preacher, *tall* and *comely* in person; qualities which much endeared him to Queen Elizabeth, who loved *good parts* well, but better when in a *goodly* person." "Worthies;" *ut sup.*

¹⁶ "Nugæ Antiquæ," vol. ii. p. 151.

own words) he lyved with her as Joseph did with Mary, our lady¹⁷." Fuller says—" Being infirm with age, and diseased with the *gout*, he was necessitated, for a *nurse*, to marry a second wife, a matron of years proportionable to himself: but this was by his *court enemies* (which no *Bishop* wanted in that age) represented to the Queen to his great disgrace; yea, they traduced him to have married a *girl of twenty years of age*, until the good Earl of Bedford, casually present at such discourse—" Madam," said he to her Majesty, ' I know not how much the woman is above twenty; but I know a son of hers is but a little under forty¹⁸.' " This marriage occasioned the Bishop so much inquietude that, to save the manor of Banwell, which he had been greatly importuned to part with by " my Lord of Leicester" and " Sir Walter Raleigh," he consented to lease out that of Wivelscombe for ninety-nine years. In his latter days he was afflicted with a quartan ague, and, retiring to Okingham, the place of his birth, he died there on the 19th of November, 1590; and was buried in the Church, where a monument was erected to his memory by his son, Francis Godwin, Sub-dean of Exeter, and afterwards Bishop of Llandaff and Hereford, the learned author of "*De Præsulibus Angliæ Commentarius*," and other works.

After a vacancy of upwards of two years, the very erudite *John Still*, D.D. a native of Grantham, in Lincolnshire, was made Bishop of this See. He was born in the year 1543, and educated at Christ's College, Cambridge, of which he became a fellow in 1560. In 1570, he was appointed Lady Margaret's Professor at Cambridge; and after several intermediate preferments he was elected Master of St. John's College, in 1574; which he voided for that of Trinity College, in 1577, on the advancement of John Whitgift to the Diocese of Worcester. He was held in great estimation both by Archbishop Parker and Dean Nowell; and, on the recommendation of the latter,

¹⁷ "*Nugæ Antiquæ*," vol. ii. p. 156.—" Setting this one disgrace of his aside, he was a man very well esteemed in the countie, beloved of all men for his great housekeeping; of the better sorte, for his kinde entertainment and pleasing discourse at his table. His reading had bene much, his judgment and doctrine sound, his government mylde and not violent, his mynde charitable; and therefore I doubt not but when he lost this life, he wonne Heaven according to his word, *win God win all*." Ibid.

¹⁸ "*Worthies*," vol. i. p. 90.

he was chosen, in 1588, Prolocutor of the Convocation, and preached the Latin sermon. In 1592-93, being then for the second time Vice-chancellor of Cambridge, he was promoted by Queen Elizabeth to this See, to which he was elected on the 3d of January, and consecrated on the 11th of the following month¹⁹. He retained this Bishopric till his decease, on the 26th of February, 1607; and he was interred, on the 4th of April, on the south side of the altar in Wells Cathedral; where a monument was erected to his memory by Nathaniel, his eldest son by his first marriage²⁰. The epitaph was written by the learned Camden.

Some amusing particulars of this Prelate are inserted in the “*Nugæ Antiquæ*”²¹. Sir John Harington, with whom he appears to have lived in much friendship, says that his tutor, Dr. Fleming, stiled him “*Divine Still*.” “*His breeding*,” he continues, “*was from his childhood in good litterature, and partly in musique, which was counted in those dayes a preparative to divinitie; neither could any be admitted to primam tonsuram, except he could first bene le, bene con, bene can (as they call it), which is to reade well, to conster well, and to sing well.—In his full time, more full of learning, he became bachelor of divinitie, and after doctor, and so famous a preacher, and speacially a disputer, that the learned’st were even affeard to dispute with him; and he, finding his owne strength, would not sticke to warne them in their arguments to take heede to their answers; like a perfect fencer that will tell aforehand in which button he will give the venew.—And, not to insist long in a matter so notorious, it may suffice that, about twenty yeare since, when the great Dyet, or meeting, should have bene in Germanie, for*

¹⁹ In the Register of Trinity College is the following entry and encomium on Bishop Still:—“*Religionis, doctrinæ gravitatis, prudentiæ nomine conspicuus, promotus est ad gubernationem Coll. D. Jo. ubi et in placido et turbato æquore gubernatorem egit scitum et cordatum. In collegium hoc assumptus 1577, per annos plus minus sexdecim patrem familias se ferebat, providum, ἀγαθὸν κερσοτρόφον, nec collegio onerosum, nec suis gravem, ex sollicitudine et frugalitate magis quam sumptu et auctoritate præfectum dignoscere.*”—

²⁰ In the pedigree of the family of Still, given in Hutchins’s “*History of Dorsetshire*,” and copied, with additions, in Sir Rich. C. Hoare’s “*Modern Wilts*,” Hundred of Mere, the above Nathaniel is described as the Bishop’s eldest son by his second wife, which must be altogether erroneous.

²¹ Vol. ii. p. 158.

composing matters in religion, Doctor Still was chosen for Cambridge, and Doctor Humphrey for Oxford, to oppose all commers for defence of the English Church."

The same writer informs us that, during the vacancy of this See, "there was great enquiring who should have it; and, as if all Bishops should now be sworne to follow *usum Sarum*²², every man made reckoning that the manor-house and park of Banwell should be made a reward of some courtier; and it increast this suspicion, that Thomas Henneage [Vice-chamberlain to the Queen, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster], an old courtier, and zealous puritan, was said to have an eare in the matter; whose conscience, if it were such in the cleargie as it was found in the Duchy, might well have digested a better booty than Banwell."—Not any alienation, however, or sacrifice of church property was made by this Prelate; and, as Fuller remarks, on his promotion to this See, "he defeated all causelesse suspicion of symoniacal compliance, coming clearly thereunto, without the least scandal to his person or losse to the place²³."

²² The above passage alludes to the alienation, by Bishop Coldwell, of Salisbury, of the Castle, park, and manor of Sherborne, in Dorsetshire, to Sir Walter Raleigh.

²³ "Worthies," vol. ii. p. 12.—Soon after his attaining this Diocess, Bishop Still, who was then a widower, gave considerable offence to Queen Elizabeth, by his second marriage. This was with Jane, the daughter of Sir John Horner, Knt. of Cloford, in Somersetshire, who "drew with her a kynde of alliance with Judge Popham, that swayd all the temporall government of the countrie." "As this connection," Harington remarks, "was much more justifiable," than that of Bishop Godwin, "so the Queene's displeasure (the times being somewhat more propitious and favourable to Bishoppricks since Bishop Wickham's sermon) was the easier pacified without so costly a sacrifice as a whole mannor; and she contented her selfe only to breake a jeast upon the name of the Bishop's wyfe, saying to Sir Henry Barkley, 'it was a dangerous name for a Bishop to match with a *Horner*.' Since which time he hath preached before her more than once, and hath receaved good testimonies of her good opinion; and God hath also blest him many wayes very greatly, to see his children well brought up, well bestowed, and to have an unexpected renew out of the *entrails* of the earth, I mean the *lead mines* of Mendip, greater than his predecessor had above ground. So as this Bishop seemes to be blest with Joseph's blessing, Gen. c. 49, v. 25. *With blessings from heaven above, blessings from the deepe that lyeth beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the wombe.*"

Bishop Warburton, in the fourth volume of his Works, p. 438, relates the following singular anecdote of Bishop Still, which he says he had from the learned Casaubon.

There is yet one circumstance relating to Bishop Still, to which it is necessary to advert; and particularly so, as it forms a rather important point in the History of the Drama. This Prelate has long been reputed to be the author of "*Gammer Gurton's Needle*," which, as Warton says, "is held to be the first Comedy in our language; that is, the first play which was neither Mystery nor Morality, and which handled a comic story with some disposition of plot, and some discrimination of character."—The earliest authority for attributing that piece to Bishop Still was Baker, the editor of the "*Biographia Dramatica*," who founded his opinion on the title-page, which states it to have been played "on the stage, not long ago, in Christ's College, in Cambridge," and "made by Mr. S. Master of Art." Hence, he not only inferred that it was written by a member of Christ's College, but that Still was the person; there being "no other Master of Arts at Christ's College" than himself, whose name "began with the letter S," in the year 1566; "when xxd," as appears from 'the Bursar's Books,' was paid for the carpenter's setting up the scaffold for the plaie."—This is all the evidence on the affirmative side; but, independently of the silence of Sir J. Harington, who was well acquainted with the Bishop, there is strong reason to doubt the

"This day the Lord Bishop of Ely (Andrews) a Prelate of great piety and holinesse, related to me a wonderful thing. He said he had received the account from many hands, but chiefly from the *Lord Bishop of Wells* (Still) lately dead. That in the city of Wells about fifteen years ago [1596], one summer's day, while the people were at divine service in the Cathedral Church, they heard, as it thundered, two or three claps above measure dreadful, so that the whole congregation, affected alike, threw themselves on their knees at this terrifying sound. It appeared the lightning fell at the same time, but without harm to any one. So far then there was nothing but what is common in the like cases. The wonderful part was this, which afterwards was taken notice of by many:—that the marks of a CROSS were found to have been imprinted on the bodies of those who were then at divine service in the Cathedral.

"The Bishop of Wells (Still) told my Lord of Ely, that his wife (a woman of uncommon probity) came to him, and informed him, as of a great *miracle*, that she had then the mark of a CROSS imprinted on her body: which tale, when the Bishop treated it as absurd, his wife exposed the part, and gave him ocular proof. He afterwards observed that he had upon himself, on his arm (as I take it) the plainest mark of a CROSS. Others had it on the shoulder, the breast, the back, and other parts. This account that great man, my Lord of Ely, gave me in such a manner as forbade even to doubt its truth."—*Ex advcr. Is. Casaubon. apud Marc. Casaubon, in tract. intit. "Of Credulity and Incredulity,"* p. 113.

fact of his having been the writer of the above piece. Warton, in the second volume of his "History of English Poetry," p. 378, says that "Gammer Gurton's Needle" was acted at Christ's College "about the year 1552;" and in his third volume, p. 208, he acquaints us, on the authority of Oldys's MSS. that it was "written and printed in 1551." Now, assuming these dates to be correct, there is evidently a moral impossibility of its having been written by Still; for as the inscription on his monument fixes his decease in 1607, at the age of sixty-four, he could not have been more than *eight* years old, and consequently no *Master of Arts*, when this Comedy was first made public.

James Montague, S. T. P. a lineal descendant of the Montacutes, Earls of Salisbury, and the son of Sir Edward Montague, Knt. was the next Bishop of this See. This Prelate, who was elected on the 29th of March, 1608, and consecrated on the 17th of the following month, was born at Boughton, in Northamptonshire, the seat of his father. Having received his education at Christ's College, Cambridge, he was appointed, in 1598, the first master of Sidney-Sussex College, in that University, by the executors of Lady Anne Sidney, the noble foundress. Whilst in that situation he greatly exerted himself to improve the buildings of his College²⁴, and to employ the quaint phraseology of Fuller, he became its "*nursing-father*, for he found it in *bonds* to pay twenty marks per annum to Trinity College, for the ground whereon it was built, and left it *free*, assigning it a rent for the discharge thereof²⁵." His talents and learning proved the means of his obtaining various promotions. Being held in much favour by James the First, that monarch, "who did *ken a man of merit* as well as any Prince in Christendome²⁶," made him Dean of Worcester, in December, 1604; and in 1608 advanced him to this Diocess. On his primary visitation at Bath, his attention was particularly directed by Sir John Harington to the ruinous state of the Abbey Church in that city, which had been subjected to almost every kind of devastation

²⁴ Godwin, speaking of this College and of the Bishop, says—"in ejus structurâ multum ab eo laboris ac solitudinis susceptum est, quodque plurimum et auxit et ornavit."—"De Præsulibus," p. 390, edit. 1743.

²⁵ "Worthies," vol. ii. p. 164.

²⁶ Ibid.

from the times of Bishop King and Prior Birde. Influenced by a generous disposition, he immediately contributed one thousand pounds towards the due completion of the building; and under his auspices it was eventually finished, about the period at which he was translated to the See of Winchester, viz. Oct. the 4th, 1616. Prior to his removal he had also expended considerable sums in repairing the episcopal palaces of Wells and Banwell; and particularly in renovating the palatial Chapel at Wells, which had been erected by Bishop Joceline. He died at Winchester, on the 2d of July, 1618; and, agreeably to his own desire, was interred in Bath Abbey Church, where his memory is preserved by a costly monument erected at the expense of his four brothers²⁷. Bishop Montague is known to the literary world as the translator of the Works of King James the First into Latin; a copy of which, published in 1616, and splendidly bound in velvet and gold, having the royal arms embossed on the cover, was given to the University of Cambridge by the King himself, and is still preserved in the Public Library there.

Montague's successor was that exemplary divine *Arthur Lake*, S. T. P. who was born in the year 1567, in St. Michael's parish, Southampton. He was the son of Almeric Lake, or Du Lake, and brother of Sir Thomas Lake, principal Secretary of State to King James the First. Having been taught the rudiments of learning at the free school in his native town, he was removed to Wykeham's College, at Winchester; whence he was elected probationary fellow of New College, Oxford; and two years afterwards, in 1589, he was made a perpetual fellow of the same college. About 1594, he proceeded in arts, and entered into holy orders: in 1600, he became fellow of Wykeham's College; and in 1603 was appointed Master of the Hospital of St. Cross, near Winchester. In 1605 he took his degrees in divinity, and in the same year was installed Archdeacon of Surrey. In April, 1608, he succeeded Bishop Montague as Dean of Worcester; and on the 17th of June, 1613, he was preferred to the Wardenship of New

²⁷ For the Inscriptions on his monument, and other particulars relating to his labours at Bath, see the "History and Antiquities of Bath Abbey Church."

College, "by the conspiring votes of a numerous society, even before he thought of it²⁸." On October the 17th, 1616, being then Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, he was elected Bishop of this See, and was consecrated on the 8th of the following December. "In all these places of honour and employment," says Wood, "he carried himself the same in mind and person, shewing by his constancy that his virtues were virtues indeed; in all kinds of which, whether natural, moral, theological, personal, or pastoral, he was eminent, and indeed one of the examples of his time. He always lived a single man, exemplary in his life and conversation, and very hospitable. He was also well read in the fathers and schoolmen, and had such a command of the Scripture, which made him one of the best preachers, that few went beyond him in his time²⁹." This high character of Bishop Lake is confirmed by Walton, who particularly extols him for his humility, charity, and all other Christian excellencies. Dying on the 4th of May, 1626, he was interred in the north aisle of the choir in this Cathedral; where a plain stone, merely inscribed with his name, quality, and date of his decease, was soon afterwards laid over his grave.

The next Bishop was the celebrated *William Laud*, D. D. who was translated from St. David's, which See he had held *in commendam* with the Deanery of Gloucester. This prelate, whose arbitrary principles and unconciliatory disposition had such a great influence in widening the breach between Charles the First and the Parliament, was born at Reading, in Berkshire, on the 7th of October, 1573. He was the son of a clothier³⁰; and

²⁸ See a "Short Review of the Life of Bishop Lake," by the Rev. Dr. J. Harris, attached to the folio volume of the Bishop's "Sermons," &c. published in 1629. Another volume of "Ten Sermons, preached at St. Paul's Cross and elsewhere," by this prelate, was published in quarto, in 1641.

²⁹ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. ii. col. 399. Fuller says that Bishop Lake "lived a pattern of piety," and "a real comment upon Saint Paul's character of a Bishop."—"Worthies," vol. i. p. 407.

³⁰ Bishop Kennet gives the following "libel" upon Laud from the "Scots Scouts Discoveries," Lond. 1642:—"His father was a clothier, his mother a spinster; he was from his cradle ordained to be a punisher of poor people, for he was born between the stocks and the cage, which a courtier one day chanced to speak of, whereupon his grace removed from thence, and pulled down his father's thatched house, and built a fair one in the place." Fuller says that Laud was

having been educated at the grammar school in his native town, he became a student of St. John's, Oxford, of which College he was elected a fellow about three years afterwards. His talents were of the first order, and his acquirements proportionate; but his pertinacity of temper began early to display itself, and he was generally regarded as an assuming and arrogant young man. In 1601 he entered into holy orders, and shortly after excited the displeasure of Dr. Abbot, the Vice Chancellor, by his opposition to the tenets of the Puritans, which about that period began to have many supporters in the University. In 1607 he was preferred to the living of St. Martin's Stamford, in Northamptonshire; and in the following year he obtained the advowson of North Kilworth, in Leicestershire. He was no sooner invested with these livings than he had the parsonage houses repaired, and gave a regular allowance to twelve poor persons; and he is said to have pursued a similar line of conduct in all his subsequent preferments. In August, 1608, being then Doctor in Divinity, he was appointed Chaplain to Dr. Richard Neile, Bishop of Rochester, who much patronized him, and by whose influence he was admitted to preach before King James at Theobald's, on the 17th of September, 1609; and in 1617 he accompanied that monarch into Scotland, on his ill timed expedition for the purpose of uniting the two Kingdoms into one religious community. After various intermediate promotions, he was elected to this Diocese on the 16th of August, 1626, and having been consecrated on the 19th of September, his temporalities were restored on the following day. In October he was made Dean of the Chapel Royal; and on April the 29th, 1627, a Privy Counsellor. In the same year the King promised him the Bishopric of London, and he was translated to that See on the 16th of July, 1628. In the December following, the *Statutes* "which he had drawn for the reducing of the factious and tumultuous elections of the Proctors, in Oxon, to several Colleges by course, and so to continue, was passed in a convocation of Masters and Doctors there, no

of "honest parentage;" and Wood states that he was "the son of a father of both his names, by Lucie his wife, the widow of John Robinson." The house which he is said to have built on the site of his father's cottage was in Broad Street, Reading; it was pulled down in the year 1811. One of the chambers retained the name of Laud's *Study*.

voice dissenting³¹." Speaking of the proceedings of Laud about this period, "Judge Whitlock, his ancient acquaintance," was accustomed to say, with almost prophetic judgment, that "he was too full of fire, though a good and just man; and that his want of experience in state matters, and his too much zeal for the Church, and heat, if he proceeded in the way he was then in, would set this nation on fire³²." On the 12th of April, 1630, Bishop Laud was elected to the Chancellorship of Oxford; and besides founding an Arabic lecture, he presented the University with a large collection of coins and manuscripts. In August, 1633, he was translated from London to the See of Canterbury; and he was no sooner in possession of the archiepiscopal chair than he commenced his strenuous but impolitic and disastrous attempt at establishing an uniformity in religious worship. On the breaking out of the disturbances which preceded the Civil war, his palace at Lambeth was assaulted by the London apprentices; but he himself escaped their fury by retiring to Whitehall. In 1640, he was impeached of high treason, and committed to the Tower, where he was imprisoned upwards of three years. His enemies then brought him to public trial; but finding that the Lords were unwilling to pronounce him guilty, they proceeded against him by a bill of attainder, and he was, in consequence, beheaded on Tower Hill, January the 10th, 1644. He was then in the seventy-first year of his age; and the firm and dignified composure with which he resigned himself to his fate evinced a perfect consciousness in the rectitude of his own principles, however they had been arbitrarily exercised, or however contrary they really were to the true interests of mankind³³. His remains were interred in the Church of Allhallows, Barking; but after the Restoration they were removed to the Chapel of St. John's College, Oxford.

Leonard Mawe, S. T. P. a native of Rendlesham, in Suffolk, who had been educated in Peter House College, Cambridge, of which he was elected Fellow in July, 1598, and Master in November, 1617, was the next Bishop

³¹ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iii. col. 124. ³² "Memorials of English Affairs," p. 32.

³³ For a summary view of the character of Archbishop Laud, see the "History," &c. "of the Metropolitan Church of Canterbury," pp. 89, 90.

of this See. He was a Prebendary of Wells, and had been Chaplain to Prince Charles, whom he accompanied into Spain, on his ill advised and romantic visit to the Infanta. In June, 1625, he was chosen Master of Trinity College, Cambridge; "whereby," saith Fuller, "he deserved well, shewing what might be done in five years by good husbandry, to disengage that foundation from a great debt³⁴." He was elected to this Diocess on July the 24th, 1628, and consecrated on the 7th of September following, at Croydon. Death bereaved him of his new honours within twelve months, September the 3d, 1629; and he was buried at Chiswick, where he expired. "He had the reputation of a good scholar, a grave preacher, a mild man, and one of gentil deportment³⁵."

Walter Curle, or Curll, D. D. the next Bishop, was a native of Hatfield, in Hertfordshire, and probably the son of William Curl, Esq. Auditor of the Court of Wards to Queen Elizabeth, who has a monument in Hatfield Church. He was admitted a student at Peter House, Cambridge, in 1592; he afterwards travelled four years, and in 1602 entered into holy orders; about the same time he was elected Fellow of his College. In 1606 he proceeded B. D. and in 1612, Doctor of Divinity. Being patronized by the Cecils, he was promoted in the Church, and became Chaplain to James the First, who advanced him to the Deanery of Lichfield in June 1621. He was made Bishop of Rochester in September, 1628, and in the following year was translated to this See; being elected on the 29th of September, and confirmed on December the 4th, 1629. Three years afterwards he was translated to Winchester, and he was also appointed Lord Almoner to the King, Charles the First. He afterwards suffered considerably in the King's cause, and was among the royalists who were besieged at Winchester; on the surrender of which city he retired to Soberton, in Hampshire, where he lies buried. Wood states that his decease happened either in the spring or summer time of 1647; but Dr. Richardson, in his additions to Godwin, says about 1650. He also affirms that he was not only deprived of his episcopal revenues, but also of his patrimonial inheritance³⁶.

³⁴ "Worthies," vol. ii. p. 333.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ "De Præsulibus," p. 242, edit. 1743.

On the translation of Curll to Winchester, *William Piers* or *Pierce*, D. D. was raised to this See. Wood states that he was born in August, 1580, in the parish of All Saints, Oxford, being the son of William Piers, "a haberdasher of hats, nephew or near of kin to Archbishop Piers, who was a native of South Hinxsey, in Berkshire³⁷. At the age of sixteen young Piers became student of Christ Church, and having proceeded in Divinity, he was in 1618, made Canon of that College. "In 1621, 22, 23, he did undergo the office of Vice Chancellor of Oxford, wherein behaving himself very forward and too officious against such that were then called *Anti-arminians*, he gained the good will of Dr. Laud, then a rising star in the Court, and so, consequently, preferment³⁸." On the 9th of June, 1622, he was installed Dean of Peterborough; and he was enthroned Bishop of that See on the 14th of November, 1630. In November, 1632, he was elected to this Diocese, and being confirmed on December the 13th, had his temporalities restored on the 20th of the same month. On the abolition of episcopacy by the Parliament, he was deprived and committed, with other Bishops, to the Tower. After his release he retired to Cuddesden, near Oxford, where he continued to reside on his own estate, and married a second wife. After the Restoration he returned to his See, "and by the great fines and renewings," says Wood, "that then came in, he was rewarded in some degree for his sufferings; but his said second wife, too young and cunning for him, got what she could from the children he had by his first wife, and wheedling him to Walthamstow, in Essex, got thousands of pounds and his plate from him, (as the common report at Wells is), which of right should have gone to his said children³⁹." He died and was buried in April, 1670, in his seventy-first

³⁷ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iv. col. 839.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid. "As for his actions," says Wood, "done in his Diocese of Bath and Wells before the grand rebellion broke out, which were very offensive to the puritanical party (who often protested that he brought innovations therein, and into his Church, suppressed preaching, lectures, and persecuted such who refused to rail in the Lordes table, &c. in his diocese), let one of them, named William Prynne, speak; yet the reader may be pleased to suspend his judgment, and not to believe all which that partial, crop-eared, and stigmatized person saith."—He then contradicts a passage in Prynne's "Canterbury's Doom," relating to Bishop Piers's application

year, at Walthamstow, where a monument was erected for him in the chancel of the parish Church.

Robert Creighton, or Crichton, S. T. P. who was born in the northern part of Scotland, and by his mother's side collaterally related to the Stuarts, succeeded Bishop Piers. He was educated at Westminster School, and elected thence to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1613, where he proceeded M. A. in 1628, in which year he was appointed both Public Orator and Greek Professor of that University. During the short vacancy of this See, in 1632, on the translation of Curll to Winchester, he was appointed Treasurer of Wells by Archbishop Abbot. In 1637 he was advanced to the Deanery of St. Burian's, in Cornwall; but he was bereaved of his preferments on the eve of the Civil war, during which, according to Wood, he suffered very much for the royal cause, and retiring with his Majesty to Oxford, became one of his Chaplains⁴⁰. He was afterwards an exile with Charles the Second, before whom, "being Chaplain at the Hague, he preached very liberally against the Presbyterians and the murderers of King Charles I."⁴¹ In 1646 he had a grant, or promise, of the Deanery of Wells,

to a certain knight of his acquaintance at Westminster, "intreating his favour to procure any lect. or curate's place for him, though never so mean, to keep him from starving. Whereupon the knight minded him of his former speeches and cruelty towards other lecturers and ministers, whom (as he added) he reduced to extreme poverty, wishing him to take special notice how God had justly requited him in his own kind;" &c.

In a petition (quoted by Bliss, *ibid.* col. 841, from Bishop Kennet) from Dr. Bastwick, Mr. Burton, and Mr. Prynne, to Charles I. complaining of the many innovations of the clergy, they say that Bishop Piers "within three years last past hath most unjustly, several times, one after another, excommunicated the churchwardens of the parish of Beckington, within the county of Somerset, and Diocess of Bath and Wells, for refusing to remove the communion table in the parish church there, from the place where it antiently stood, decently rayled in with wainscot, to rayle it altar-wise against the east end of the chancel; and likewise threatened to excommunicate the churchwardens of the parish of Batecombe, in the said county, for not blotting out of their church wall, upon his commande, this sacred Scripture thereon written:—'Isaiah lviii. 13, 14. *If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath,*' &c. calling it, most blasphemously, 'a Jewish place [? piece] of Scripture, not fit to be suffered in the church;' and upon their refusal to obliterate it, he sent his chaplain, with a plaisterer, to see it wiped out, who executed this his command."

⁴⁰ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. ii. Fasti, col. 444.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

and on the Restoration, in 1660, he obtained possession. About ten years afterwards he was elected to this See, viz. on the 25th of May, 1670; and he was consecrated, at Lambeth, on the 19th of the following month. He died on the 21st of November, 1672, being then in his seventy-ninth year, and he was buried in this Cathedral. Whilst residing at the Hague he published a Latin translation, from the Greek, of Sylvester Suguropolis's "History of the Council of Florence."

Peter Mews, LL. D. the successor of Creyghton, was a native of Dorsetshire, probably of Purse Caundell, the residence of his father. Having been taught the rudiments of language at Merchant Taylors' School, in London; he was elected thence at the age of eighteen, in 1637, to St. John's College, Oxford, of which he, eventually, became Fellow and President. In 1641 he was elected B. A., and in the following year, on the breaking out of the Civil war, he took up arms for the royal cause. He proceeded in Arts in 1645, but was ejected from the University by the Parliamentary Visitors in 1648; after which he joined the royalists in Scotland. When the King's affairs became desperate he went abroad, and "did undergo many troubles and dangers"⁴². After the Restoration, viz. in July, 1660, he was made Archdeacon of Huntingdon, and in December following created Doctor of Laws; about the same time he was appointed one of the King's Chaplains. Besides several intermediate promotions, he had the "golden Prebendship," as Wood calls it, of St. David's bestowed upon him in 1667; and in 1669, 1670, (in which year he was advanced to the Deanery of Rochester), and 1671, he filled, "with great credit to himself," the office of Vice Chancellor of Oxford. In December, 1672, he was elected to this See, and he was consecrated, at Lambeth, on the following Shrove Sunday, February the 9th, 1672-3. During the twelve years of his episcopacy here "he was much beloved and admired for his hospitality, generosity, justice, and frequent preaching"⁴³. On the 22d of November, 1684, he was translated to Winchester; and in June, 1685, although sixty-four years of age, he "appeared in actual service for his Majesty King James II. against the rebels, conducted by James, Duke of Monmouth; which being very signal, his Majesty was

⁴² "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iv. col. 888.

⁴³ Ibid, col. 889.

graciously pleased to reward him with a rich medal⁴⁴." On the abdication, however, of his bigoted master, this Prelate took the oaths to King William, and thus retained his Bishopric till his decease, on the 9th of November, 1706: he was interred in Winchester Cathedral.

The next Bishop was *Thomas Ken*, or *Kenn*, D. D. the son of a London attorney, who was descended from a collateral branch of an ancient family of that name, which had been seated for several centuries at Kenn Place, in Somersetshire. He was born at Little Berkhamstead, in Hertfordshire, in July, 1637, and received his early education at Wykeham's school at Winchester. Thence removing to New College, Oxford, he became Probationary Fellow on that foundation in 1657. In 1661 he proceeded B. A. and in 1666, being then M. A., was chosen Fellow of Winchester College. In 1674 he travelled to Rome, in company with his nephew, Isaac Walton the younger, (afterwards Chaplain to Bishop Seth Ward), and after his return proceeded in divinity, becoming B. D. in 1678, and D. D. in the following year. Soon afterwards he was appointed Chaplain to Mary, Princess of Orange, whom he accompanied to Holland; but having lost the favour of her consort by insisting on the marriage of one of his officers with a young lady of the Princess's train, whom he had seduced under that promise, he returned to England. He was subsequently appointed to accompany Lord Dartmouth to Tangier, in the quality of Chaplain; and on his return, in April, 1684, was immediately made Chaplain to his Majesty, Charles the Second, by an order of the King himself. In the November following he was nominated to this Bishopric, and he was consecrated, at Lambeth, on the 25th of January, 1684-5; but the King's illness intervening, he did not receive his temporalities till after the accession of James the Second. Previously to Charles's decease, Bishop Kenn constantly attended him, and did his utmost to "awaken his conscience;" speaking, as Bishop Burnet states, "with great elevation of thought and expression, and like a man inspired." During James's reign, some attempts were made to seduce him to the popish

⁴⁴ "Athenæ Oxonienses," vol. iv. col. 889. Bishop Mews is said to have commanded the artillery in the battle of Sedgemoor, which proved so disastrous to the Duke of Monmouth and his ill-fated partisans.

party, but fruitlessly ; and he was one of the seven Bishops who were committed to the Tower for opposing the public reading of the King's celebrated Declaration of Indulgence, in June, 1688. Though thus averse, however, to papistical ascendancy, he could not be induced to take the new oaths of allegiance to King William, and was, in consequence deprived of his Bishopric on the 1st of February, 1690-91. He afterwards retired to Longleat, in Wiltshire, the seat of his friend and patron, Lord Viscount Weymouth, where he died on the 19th of March, 1710-11. It is said that he had for many years, when travelling, carried his shroud in his portmanteau ; and that he put it on a few days before his decease, to prevent the stripping of his body. He was interred in the church at Frome, near Longleat. His works were published in four volumes, in 1721 : they chiefly consist of Sermons and Devotional Pieces, in verse and prose. Notwithstanding the steady refusal of Bishop Kenn to take the required oaths, the Queen entertained so much respect for his character, that she granted him an annual pension of two hundred pounds.

On the deprivation of Bishop Kenn, King William nominated *Dr. William Beveridge*, afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph, to this See ; but on his refusing to accept it, possibly from some conscientious scruple in regard to the late Bishop, the Queen, on the 13th of June, 1691, nominated *Richard Kidder*, S. T. P. Dean of Peterborough, who was accordingly consecrated on the 30th of August following, at the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, in London. He was born, according to one account, at BRIGHTHELMSTON, in Sussex ; and to others, at East Grinstead, in the same county. In June, 1649, he was admitted sizar in Emanuel College, Cambridge, of which he became Fellow in 1655 ; and proceeded A. M. in the following year. After several intermediate preferments, (from one of which, Stanground, in Huntingdonshire, he was ejected for non-conformity, in 1662, under the St. Bartholomew Act,) he was promoted to the Deanery of Peterborough, in October, 1689 ; on the 7th of which month he had taken his degree as D. D. In 1691, as mentioned above, he was advanced to this Diocess, which he continued to govern till his melancholy death ; he being killed in his bed, with his lady, in the episcopal Palace of Wells, by the fall of a stack of chimneys that was

blown down by the wind, in the great storm which produced such extensive devastation in the night of the 26th and 27th of November, 1703. He was author of various works; the principal of which was a "Demonstration of the Messiah," printed first in three volumes, 8vo. and afterwards in folio; and a "Commentary on the Pentateuch," in two volumes, 8vo. In the brief notice which Todd has given of this Prelate, he says—"The world has been greatly benefited by his excellent writings"⁴⁵.

George Hooper, D. D. a native of Grimley, in Worcestershire, succeeded Bishop Kidder. He was born November the 18th, 1640; and having been first admitted at St. Paul's School, was afterwards removed to Westminster, whence he was elected to Christ Church, Oxford. He distinguished himself in the University as a most accomplished scholar; "directing his studies with success not only to Philosophy, Mathematics, the Greek and Roman Antiquity, but to the more difficult attainments of Eastern Learning; in the pursuit of which he was assisted by that eminent Orientalist, Dr. Pocock"⁴⁶. In 1672 he became Chaplain to Dr. Morley, Bishop of Winchester; and in the following year proceeded B. D.; shortly after which, Archbishop Sheldon, with the assent of the former Prelate, appointed him his Chaplain, and collated him to the rectory of Lambeth. In 1677 he took the degree of D. D. and in the same year was advanced to the Precentorship of Exeter; in which Cathedral he also became a Canon Residentiary. About 1680 he was appointed Chaplain to Charles the Second; and by the command of his successor, James, he attended, in 1685, the ill fated Duke of Monmouth both on the evening before his execution, and on the scaffold. After the glorious Revolution, in 1688, he was appointed Chaplain to William and Mary; the latter, to whom he had been Almoner, when Princess of Orange, during some part of her residence in Holland, promoted him to the Deanery of Canterbury, in July, 1691, on the translation of Dr. Sharp to the Archbishopric of York. In February, 1700-1, he was chosen Prolocutor of the Lower House of Convocation, the independence of which he strongly de-

⁴⁵ Vide "Some Account of the Deans of Canterbury," p. 176; note *h*. A manuscript Memoir of Bishop Kidder, written by himself, is in the possession of some gentleman at Wells.

⁴⁶ Todd's "Account," p. 169.

fended during the famous dispute respecting the Rights of Convocation. In the same year he was offered, but refused to accept, the Primacy of Ireland. Queen Anne, although against his inclination, preferred him to the See of St. Asaph, in 1703; but in the following year he was translated to this Diocess, in which he was confirmed on the 14th of March, 1703-4. He presided here upwards of twenty-three years; but, having attained the great age of eighty-seven, he died at Barkley, in Somersetshire, on the 6th of September, 1727; and was buried in this Cathedral. Dr. Coney, who was Prebendary of Wells and Rector of Bath, has recorded a remark of the celebrated Dr. Busby, in his account of Bishop Hooper, annexed to an edition of his own Sermons, which he published in 1730, namely—"That he was the best scholar and the finest gentleman, and would make the completest Bishop that ever was educated at Westminster School." He was greatly beloved by his clergy; and his biographer, Todd, who has successfully rescued his memory from the charges of craft, ambition, and rapaciousness, too hastily brought against him by Bishops Burnet and Atterbury, affirms that, "His character will continue to command respect and reverence till the value of learning and religion is forgotten or despised." His works, which exhibit "splendid proofs" of his extensive erudition, were collected and published at Oxford, in 1757, in one volume, folio.

John Wynne, S. T. P. who had been created Bishop of St. Asaph in 1714, was translated to this See on the demise of Bishop Hooper, in 1727. He was much respected for his virtues; and, after governing his Diocess for sixteen years, died at Soughton (his patrimonial seat), in Flintshire, on the 15th of July, 1743, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was buried in the Church at Northop, or Llan Eurgain, in the above county.

Edward Willes, S. T. P. the brother of the Lord Chief Justice Willes, was translated to this See in September, 1743, from St. David's; to which he had been advanced, in the preceding year, from the Deanery of Lincoln. He held the office of Joint Decypherer to the King, with his son Edward Willes, Esq. He died at his residence, in Hill Street, Berkeley Square, on the 24th of November, 1773, in his eightieth year; and was interred in South Audley Street Chapel.

Charles Moss, S. T. P. and F. R. S. was next, like his predecessor Willes, translated from St. David's to this See. He was of a Norfolk family, and nephew of Dr. Robert Moss, Dean of Ely, who, dying in March, 1729, bequeathed him the bulk of his fortune; at which time he was a student of Caius College, Cambridge, and was afterwards elected a fellow there. He took the degree of B. A. in 1731; proceeded M. A. in 1735, and S. T. P. in 1747. His preferments were numerous: he became Archdeacon of Colchester, in 1750, Prebendary of Salisbury, and Rector of St. James's. In 1759 he was instituted Rector of St. George's, Hanover Square; and from that year till 1762, he preached the Boyle's Lecture. He was consecrated Bishop of St. David's, at Lambeth, on the 30th of April, 1766; and translated in the beginning of the year 1774 to this See, which he continued to govern till his decease, on April the 13th, 1802, in the ninety-second year of his age. He was the oldest spiritual peer in the House of Lords, having sat on the bench of Bishops nearly thirty-six years. From his general urbanity, and the simplicity of his manners, he was much esteemed throughout his Diocese; and his piety and learning secured to him the veneration of the Christian and the scholar. He had amassed a private fortune amounting to one hundred and forty thousand pounds; of which he bequeathed twenty thousand pounds to his only daughter, the wife of Dr. King, afterwards Bishop of Oxford; and the residue, independently of a few charitable legacies, to his son Dr. Moss, who preceded Dr. King in the See just named. Bishop Moss was the author of a few Sermons; and also of the "Sequel of the Trial of the Witnesses;" in answer to Chubb's tract on the Resurrection, in reply to Bishop Sherlock's "Tryal of Witnesses," which had been written in refutation of Woolston, in 1729. The *Sequel* was first published under the title of "The Evidence of the Resurrection cleared," &c. in 1744; at which time Dr. Moss was Sherlock's Chaplain. He was buried in South Audley Street Chapel, in London⁴⁶.

Richard Beadon, D. D. and F. A. S. was translated from Gloucester to this See on the decease of Bishop Moss. He was born in the year 1737;

⁴⁶ It is remarkable that in three different accounts, now before the writer, of the death of this Prelate, the place of his decease is stated differently; one fixing it in Great George Street, Westminster; another in Grosvenor Square; and the third in Grosvenor Place.

and, having received his early education at the grammar school in Tiverton, was removed thence to St. John's College, Cambridge; of which he became a fellow, having previously taken the degree of B. A. in 1758, and M. A. in 1761. He was also, in 1768, appointed Orator of his University. In 1769 he proceeded B. D.; and in 1775 was advanced to the Archdeaconry of London. In 1780 he became Doctor in Divinity; and in the following year was elected Master of Jesus College. The present Duke of Gloucester was entrusted to Dr. Beadon's peculiar care at Cambridge; and his judicious conduct, whilst tutor to that Prince, "secured the royal favour, and paved the way to his subsequent high eminence in the Church." In 1789 he was promoted to the See of Gloucester, which he continued to govern till his translation to Bath and Wells, in 1802. He died at Bath, on the 21st of April, 1824; and was buried in this Cathedral on the 30th of the same month.

The present Bishop of this See is *George Henry Law*, LL. D. who, in June, 1824, was translated hither from Chester; to which Diocess he had been promoted in 1812, on the translation of Dr. Sparke to the Bishopric of Ely. This Prelate was the thirteenth and youngest son of the late learned Dr. Edmund Law, Bishop of Carlisle, and brother of the late John Law, Bishop of Elphin, Ireland; and of Edward Law, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench; by the powerful interest of the latter of whom he was advanced to the episcopal chair. He was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge; and becoming B. A. in 1781, proceeded M. A. in 1784, and some years afterwards D. D. His father advanced him to a prebendal stall in the Cathedral of Carlisle. His published works are principally Sermons on the Evidences and Doctrine of Christianity. The great estimation with which his persuasive eloquence is regarded, may be inferred from his numerous Discourses for the benefit of the Public Charities of London. Considering the long continued illness of the late Prelate, and consequent relaxation of authority in this Diocess, it will require all the zeal and active exertions of the present worthy Diocesan to restore the established discipline to its proper powers and authority. Lukewarmness and inattention in the higher orders of the clergy are calculated to give the "vantage ground" to the diligent agents of Catholicism and Sectarianism.

Chap. XV.

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE FABRIC; ITS FOUNDATION, SUCCESSIVE ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS, AND PRESENT CONDITION.

ALTHOUGH it is evident, from the information detailed in the preceding chapters, that the Cathedral establishment at Wells, both in the Saxon and the Norman times, must have been very considerable, and the buildings proportionably extensive, yet there is no part of the architecture at the present time that can be assigned to an earlier period than the twelfth century. Of the Collegiate Church, reputed to have been founded by King Ina, in 704, we know nothing; nor yet of the Cathedral, immediately succeeding it (said to have been founded in Bishop Wlfelm's time), the earliest certain account of the erection of any buildings here being of those attributed to Bishop Giso, in the reign of the Norman William. "He thought good," says Bishop Godwin, on the authority of the Canon of Wells, "to augment the number of his Canons; and, for their better intertainment, built them a cloyster, a hall, and a dorter, or place for their lodging¹." Those edifices were destroyed by the next Bishop, John de Villula, who raised a palace in their place; but, having transferred the seat of his episcopacy to Bath, he suffered the Cathedral at Wells to go to ruin; and it seems to have become still more progressively deteriorated till after the composition made, in

¹ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 361.—"Auxit numerum Canonicorum in Ecclesiâ Wellensi; fecitque eis Clastrum, Dormitorium et Refectorium, et unum de eis nomine Isaac fecit eis Præpositum."—"Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 559.

King Stephen's reign, between the two Chapters by Bishop ROBERT, who substantially repaired, or rather rebuilt, the falling fabric; and dedicated it anew in the presence of the Bishops of Sarum, Worcester, and Hereford². The present Church, however, has been stated to derive its origin from the munificence of Bishop JOCELINE DE WELLES, in the early part of the reign of King Henry the Third. That Prelate, indeed, whatever be the fact in this respect, may be regarded as fully deserving of the character given of him by the Canon of Wells; namely, "Hic sibi similem anteriorem non habuit, nec huc usque visus est habere sequentem³."

Godwin's words, in speaking of this Bishop, are remarkable. After mentioning his enlargement of the Cathedral establishment and revenues, by the founding of new prebends, annexation of manors, &c. he says—"Moreover, in building, he bestowed inestimable sums of money. He built a stately chapel in his Pallace at Wels, and an other at Owky [Wokey], as also many other edifices in the same houses. And lastly, the Church of Welles itselfe, being now ready to fall to the ground, notwithstanding the great cost bestowed upon it by Bishop Robert, he pulled down the greatest part of it, to witte, al the West end, built it a new from the very foundation, and hallowed or dedicated it October 23, 1239⁴." In his Latin work, this writer further says, that Joceline took down the greatest part of the Church from the presbytery westward, and rebuilt it on a more spacious and beautiful plan, with hewn stone curiously sculptured, so as to produce a very noble and admirable effect⁵.

At what period Bishop Joceline commenced his work is uncertain; but

² Vide Chap. II. p. 30. ³ "Ang. Sacr." pars i. p. 564. ⁴ Godwin's "Catalogue," p. 366.

⁵ "Ecclesiam deinde ipsam Wellensem jamjam collapsuram (quamvis in ejus reparatione ingentes non ita pridem sumptus fecerat Robertus Episcopus) egregie refecit ac restituit, vel potius novam condidit. Nam partem multo maximam, quicquid nimirum presbyterio est ab Occidente, demolitus est, ut cum ampliorem tum pulchriorem redderet, structura excitata ex polito lapide affabre insculpto, augustissima et spectatu dedicavit Octobris vicesimo tertio, 1239."—"De Præsulibus," p. 371, edit. 1743. It should be remembered that our author's father was Bishop of this See from 1584 to 1590; and, consequently, that his son had an opportunity to obtain his information from the archives of the Cathedral.

most probably it was not till his return from exile⁶, about the year 1213 or 1214; after which "he gave himself altogether to adorning and increasing the state of his Church⁷." The whole of the building from the west end, except the upper parts of the western towers, to the middle of the present choir is, from its similarity of style and general architectural character, reputed to have been erected by this Prelate, who dying in November, 1242, "in medio Chori honorificè sepelitur⁸." Between that period and the year 1264, the whole of the more eastern part, together with the Chapel of our Lady, was completed, or nearly so; as may be inferred both from the style of the workmanship and the incidental notice of the Canon of Wells, who states that Bishop Bitton, or Button, the first of that name, whose decease occurred on the 3d of April, 1264, was entombed, "*in novâ Capellâ B. Mariæ Virginis*⁹." The *Chapter-house* appears to have been the next portion that was erected; for Godwin, in his English work, informs us that it was built by the contribution of well disposed people, in the time of Bishop William de Marchia¹⁰, whose episcopacy began in January, 1293, and terminated in June, 1302; but it is remarkable that, in his "*De Præsulibus*," he has left the Chapter-house altogether unmentioned, in his account of the same Prelate. In 1325, on the 2d of the kalends of February, according to the Harleian MS. No. 6964 (which contains excerpts from the Registers of Wells), an indulgence of forty days was granted to those who contributed towards the *new work* (*ad novum opus*) of this Cathedral; yet we have no precise account of what work was then in progress. The South-west tower, or, to speak more discriminatively, the upper part of it, from the height of the water-table, above the third row of statues, was built in the reign of Richard the Second, ante anno 1386, at the expense of Bishop John de Harewell and the Dean and Chapter of Wells: that Prelate also gave one hundred marks towards glazing the great west window. The corresponding part of the North-west tower is supposed to have been principally erected

⁶ Vide Chapter II. pp. 33, 34.

⁷ Godwin's "Catalogue," p. 366.

⁸ "Anglia Sacra," pars i. p. 564.

⁹ Ibid, pars i. p. 566.

¹⁰ "Catalogue," p. 370.

at the expense of Bishop Bubwith, "which his armes, fixed vpon divers places of the same, do partly shew"¹¹. The same Prelate, according to Leland, "made the Est part of the Cloyster, with the little Chapel beneth, and the great Librarie over it, having 25 windowes on eche side"¹². Godwin mentions his erection of the library over the cloister, but says nothing of his building the chapel. The West side of the cloisters was erected by that munificent Prelate, Beckington, together "with the volte and a goodly Schoole, with the Schole master Logging, and an Eschequer over it, having 25 wyndowes toward the area side"¹³. He also began the South side of the cloisters; "but one Thomas Henry, Treasurer of Welles and Archdiacon of Cornewaull, made an ende of it, *in hominum memoria*"¹⁴. On the north the cloister green is bounded by the Church itself; and there is no other building on that side.

Having thus consecutively narrated all the historical evidence that can be obtained in regard to the foundation and progress of this truly magnificent building, it becomes necessary to enter into an examination of its principal constituent parts, in order to discover how far the style and character of the architecture agree with the dates and eras above specified.

Although the whole of this Cathedral is designed and built in the Pointed style of Architecture, yet it will readily be seen, by inspecting the Ground Plan, that from the west end to the third column on each side of the choir, there is a regular and nearly symmetrical correspondency in the thickness of the walls and the forms of the buttresses; and that in both respects they partake far more of the massive solidity and heaviness of the Norman

¹¹ Ibid. p. 374.—It is not a little curious that, in his "De Præsulibus," pp. 377, 379, Bishop Godwin has assigned the *south-west* tower, "*campanilis quod Occasum spectat æstivum*," to Bubwith; and the *north-west* tower, "*Occasum spectat hibernum*," to Harewell; although he has stated expressly the contrary in his English work. We have the additional authority, however, of the "*Anglia Sacra*," pars i. p. 570, for referring the South-west tower to Bishop Harewell; and that the North-west tower was the work of Bubwith is testified by the insertion of his arms beneath a statue on the western face of the said tower. Those arms also correspond with another shield, within his Chantry Chapel, on the north side of the Nave.

¹² "Itinerary," vol. iii. p. 105, edit. 1744.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

character, than we are accustomed to meet with in Churches constructed in the Pointed system. The buttresses, comparatively, are but of small projection; there are no arched buttresses; and the members and ornaments of the windows, which are of contracted dimensions, are much more simple than in any other of our Cathedrals, where the same style is prevalent. All the side windows, indeed, both of the nave and transept, except two windows in the latter, which have evidently been altered, consist only of two principal lights, separated by a single mullion; and the tracery is extremely plain. It is remarkable also that the great west window, as it is denominated, is in fact composed of three *distinct* lancet-shaped divisions, of considerable elevation, separated not by mullions, but by piers of masonry, which are nearly equal in breadth to the apertures themselves. There is, in fact, such great simplicity in all the more antient parts of this fabric (which include the nave and transept, and the walls of the west part of the choir) that, had not the Canon of Wells so particularly mentioned the restoration of the Cathedral by Joceline de Welles, and Bishop Godwin so strongly corroborated his testimony by expressly stating that Joceline, after pulling down the old church from the presbytery westward, built it anew from the very foundations, there could be little hesitation in ascribing it to Bishop ROBERT, and assigning them to the reign of Henry the Second.

The north porch might still more decidedly be referred to the same period; for it possesses so many characteristics of Norman architecture, that there can be no doubt of its having been erected before the Pointed style had obtained its full ascendancy. The supporting buttresses are flat and plain; and their pinnacles are almost devoid of ornament. The outward arch, though highly pointed, exhibits amidst its deeply-recessed mouldings a two-fold series of zigzag or diagonal sculpture, intermixed with Norman foliage; and the capitals of its banded shafts partake, in their grotesque figures, and flowing leaves, of the same character. The panelled front of the surmounting gable also, which consists of six lancet-headed blank arches, of different heights, rising to the weatherings, bespeaks an early age; and even the piercing (to admit light into the roof) of the lower part of the

middle panels into three lancet-shaped apertures corresponds with other specimens of the date above assumed.

There is yet another circumstance in which this building assimilates with the Norman character; namely, in the ponderous solidity of its western towers, as compared with the limited extent of their interior areas. In this respect they differ greatly from those of a later age, constructed when the principles of resisting the outward thrust of internal arches by boldly projecting and flying buttresses became better understood. During whichever episcopacy, however, the earlier parts of this edifice were raised, it is evident that the design was formed at that very point of time when the Pointed style of Architecture was first attaining its supremacy over the massive compositions of the Norman builders. Though not entirely free from prior trammels, we trace in it the vigorous dawn of that superior lightness and elegance which shortly afterwards were carried to such high perfection in the eastern parts of the choir, in the lady chapel, in the chapter-house, and in the superstructure of the central tower. The simplicity and plainness of the groining in the nave and transept furnish another character of remote age; and the general style of sculpture in the ornamental parts is an additional evidence.

On entering the choir we immediately perceive a distinct change in the architectural characteristics and style of the building; and the change becomes the more striking as we advance, the east end or altar part of the choir being the most florid in its design, and the most elegant in its enrichments. The windows are larger, and their tracery is more elaborate and diversified; the arches are more expansive, the panelling and ornaments more complex, and the groining is more intricate and adorned than in any part of the nave and transept. As we proceed eastward, the scene becomes still more decorated and elaborate; and the light and airy elegance of the Lady Chapel at once arrests our admiration, and demands our praise. Here the windows are still more capacious than those of the choir and its ailes; and the ramifications of the tracery more extended and beautiful than in any other division of the Cathedral.

If it be recollected that at the period when Bishop Joceline is stated to

have *rebuilt* this fabric, the Bishops Richard Poore and Robert de Bingham were erecting the beautiful Cathedral of Salisbury, in the adjoining county of Wilts, and an inference be drawn from the comparative solid and substantial character of the work assigned to Joceline, compared with that of his contemporary Bishops, we shall find great reason to question the credibility of those accounts which refer the western parts of this edifice to him: for it is scarcely possible to believe that a munificent and affluent Prelate would have contented himself with raising so plain a structure, and one partaking so much of the massive heaviness of Norman architecture, in the immediate neighbourhood of a building wherein the light, airy, and elegant character of the Pointed style was so strikingly apparent. Could we suppose that Godwin, from some inadvertency, had mistaken the meaning of the record from which it is *presumed* his information was derived (for he has not referred to any), the difficulty would be partly solved; as, instead of assigning the nave and transept of the Cathedral to Bishop Joceline, we should regard him as the rebuilder of the *eastern* part of the choir, wherein he was interred, which possesses the characteristics of his time and era. On the contrary, the *western* part, as already shewn, approaches so nearly to the Norman style that we cannot, without departing from every principle of comparison and analogy, avoid ascribing it to Bishop Robert. By this conclusion, also, another difficulty is solved:—for if Joceline did not erect the eastern part, it may be inquired by whom then was it erected? And there are no documents known to be extant which have any direct bearing upon the question. With respect to the *New works*, for which forty days indulgence were granted to contributors in Bishop Drokenford's time, we may rationally assume that they refer to the superstructure of the central tower, which displays the general characteristic decorations of Edward the Third's reign.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH.

THERE is not, perhaps, a Cathedral in England more interesting to the artist and architectural antiquary than that of Wells. It abounds in fine and curious features, is connected with several antient monastic edifices, and is surrounded by bold and even grand scenery. The design, construction, and execution of the Church itself are alike objects of study and admiration; and are worthy of the most careful examination by the professional architect. Seated in a valley, at the immediate source of a river formed by the confluence of several springs, with bold, rugged, wooded, and bare hills rising around, and thus apparently guarding its sacred precincts, it constitutes a fine artificial feature in the landscape, from different points, as the stranger approaches the city. From various stations on the roads to Frome, Shepton Mallet, Bath, Bristol, Cheddar, and Glastonbury, it presents different and diversified aspects and combinations; but all are highly picturesque, and consequently adapted to gratify the artist. In descending the hill from the east, on the road from Bath, its three towers, and numerous pinnacles, the chapter-house, and lady chapel, the bishop's palace, and other buildings of Wells form a fine group in the centre, whilst steep wooded hills constitute the side screens; a lofty conical hill the middle distance; and Glastonbury Tor, with its connected ridges, terminate the prospect. To the west it presents a very different aspect and character: there its highly enriched façade, its surmounting towers, parts of the deanery in front, and the palace on the right, with the parish tower of St. Cuthbert's rising high above the neighbouring houses, one hill finely robed with woods, and another presenting bare rocks on the summit for the back ground, are features and objects calculated to gratify every intelligent spectator, and to afford particular delight to the enthusiastic artist and antiquary.

To point out the different stations from which this venerable fabric may be seen advantageously, with its neighbouring scenery, distant stretches of

country, and numerous combinations would occupy an extended essay, and be irrelevant to the nature of the present volume: but to be insensible of such picturesque beauties and advantages of situation and accompaniments would betray an apathy of heart, and a blindness of intellectual vision, degrading to a literary character, and incompatible with the name either of artist or amateur.

Gilpin, who viewed all objects in nature and art with an eye to the picturesque, in his "Observations on the Western Parts of England," says, "Our approach to Wells, from the *natural* and *incidental* beauties of the scene, was uncommonly picturesque. It was a hazy evening, and the sun declining low was hid behind a deep purple cloud, which covered half the hemisphere, but did not reach the western horizon: its lower skirts were gilt with dazzling splendour, which spreading downwards, not in diverging rays, but in one uniform ruddy glow, and uniting at the bottom with the mistiness of the air, formed a rich yet modest tint; with which Durcote Hill, projecting boldly on the left, the towers of Wells beyond it, and all the objects of the distance were tinged; whilst the foreground, seen against so bright a piece of scenery, was overspread with the darkest shades of evening. The whole together invited the pencil without soliciting the imagination: but it was a transitory scene. As we stood gazing on it, the sun sunk below the cloud, and, being stripped of all its splendour by the haziness of the atmosphere, fell like a ball of fire into the horizon; and the whole radiant vision faded away."

This Cathedral, though partly connected with houses and walls, and obscured by plantations in the gardens to the south and east, may be readily seen and examined from various stations. Its western façade, northern porch and transept, the chapter-house, and nearly the whole of the north side and part of the east end are open to public view. The south side of the nave and south-western tower are fully displayed to the cloister; but the southern part of the choir abuts on a private garden, and can only be seen from a distance. The eastern end and northern side of the choir are also in private gardens; but their chief features are beheld from the public road. The architectural antiquary, who has not been gratified by a personal

examination of this fine edifice, will understand its general arrangement from the annexed Ground Plan; and will also be enabled to compare it with other cathedrals by this evidence in combination with the accompanying engravings. The professional architect and experienced antiquary will require scarcely any other aid to comprehend and understand all the characteristic members and features of the building. They will perceive its design, general and particular proportions, construction, varied styles of execution, and modes in which the separate portions are or have been finished. To such persons description is almost superfluous; for they read and understand more readily and clearly the language of geometrical delineation than that of words. The less experienced readers may require descriptive elucidations: and to such the following particulars are addressed.

The western façade is open and unobscured. A large flat lawn, or cemetery, extends to a considerable distance westward, and returns round the northern flank to the eastern angle of the transept. From this point a building extends directly north to a series of dwellings called the Vicar's College; and in consequence of a public road of approach to the city, passing between this College and the Cathedral, the architect has contrived a novel and very convenient communication from the one to the other by constructing an enclosed and glazed gallery, supported by three arches, and crossing the highway. A wall extends from this point eastward, and incloses the chapter-house and northern part of the choir, &c. within the area of a private garden belonging to one of the Canon's houses.

The *West Front* claims the first and principal attention and admiration of every class of visitors; for all must be impressed with its gorgeous display of sculpture, conopied niches, and varied ornaments. It seems to have been the intention of the architect to surpass all preceding works of the kind,—to have rendered this architectural title-page full of sculptural and allegoric information,—to have produced a sort of miracle in art, and thus to excite wonder and awful devotion. From its present mutilated and unfinished state some idea may be formed of its original splendour; and it may be fairly concluded that the upper portions of the lateral towers were to have been finished in a corresponding style of decoration to the other parts of

this façade. The annexed prints, Plates IV. IV.* V. V.* and XIX. will illustrate the general and particular design as well as the decorative ornaments of this front and its towers.

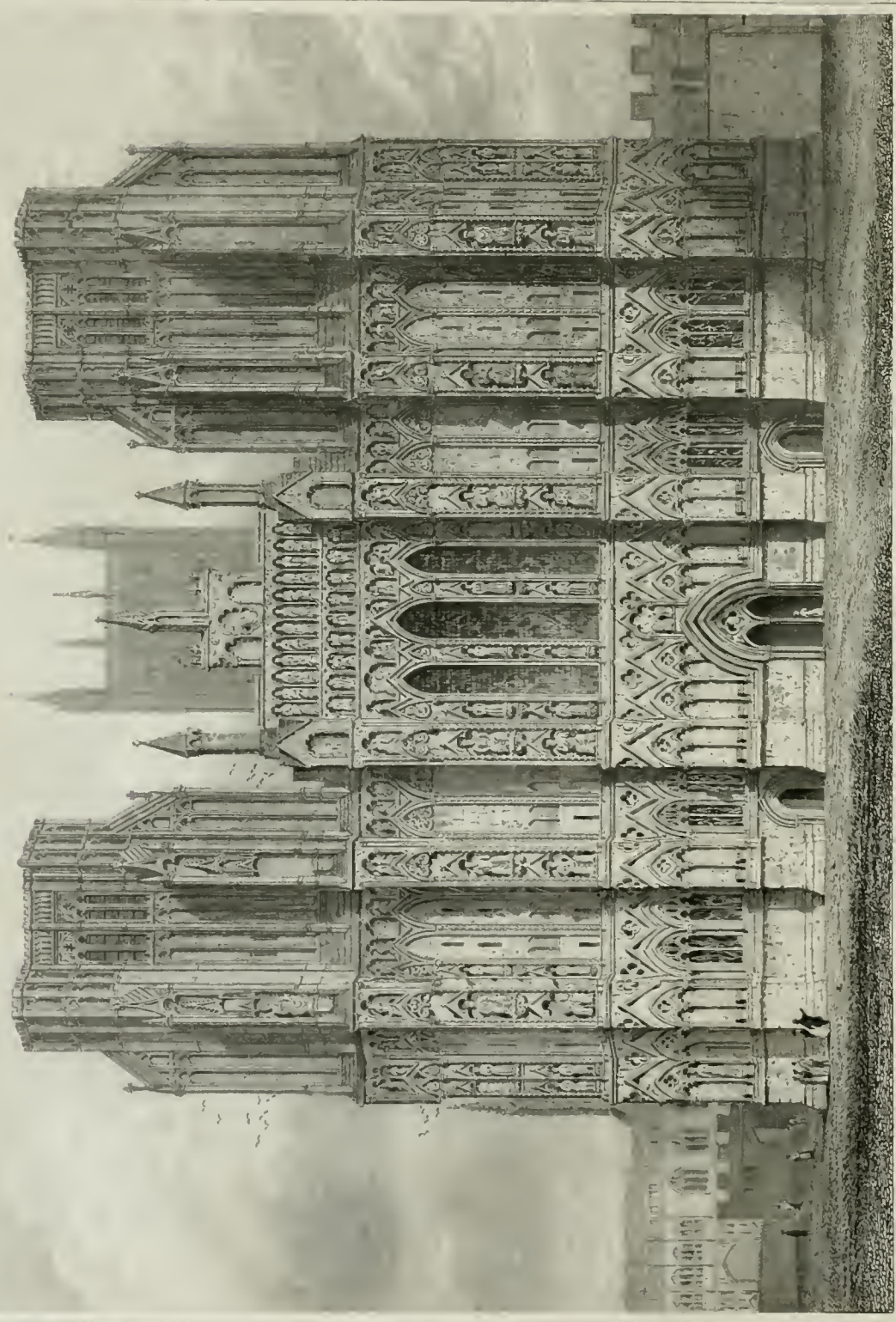
In PLATE IV. is represented the whole western front, as beheld from a distance. This point of view was chosen to shew the symmetrical design, correspondency of parts, proportions, and decorations. In elevation it may be described as consisting of three nearly equal portions; namely, two lateral towers and a central division: each of these includes two boldly projecting buttresses, with intermediate walls. Horizontally the elevation is divided into four distinct tiers or ranges; viz. the base, dado, and surbase all of plain ashler work, with bold string course mouldings: a central double doorway, with small lateral doorways opening respectively to the nave and ailes, are seen here, and must appear to every person who views the print, as well as to those who examine the building, to be very diminutive: they have been compared to rabbit holes in the side of a mountain. Above the surbase string course is a continued series of duplicated niches, with pedestals and pedimental labels over double pointed arches. Nearly the whole of these niches are deprived of their respective effigies, or statues. Between every two pediments is a quatrefoil deeply sunk panel, occupied by a sculptured figure, or group of figures. Two windows of double lights to each, corresponding with the panels, are opened to the towers and to the north and south ailes. The next, or third tier from the base, presents a more enriched style of design in its niches, canopies, and sculpture than the lower part. The height of this division was probably regulated by the three central windows, which were designed to enlighten this end of the nave. These windows are separated by two piers nearly of equal width to the openings; and their faces, as well as the sides, are covered with sculpture, &c. The face of each buttress, as well as the returns or flanks of each, are profusely embellished with sculptured effigies standing or sitting on rich pedestals, and surmounted by canopies. A continued series of lancet-shaped arches, but all blank, occupies the face between the buttresses; and the upper portions of nearly all of these arches are charged with sculptured scrolls, foliage, &c.; some specimens of which are given at large in Plate XIX. Above these arches

is a series of niches continued along the whole of the front, and extending round each side of the towers. These are occupied by sculptured groups of human figures, represented in various positions of emerging from the tomb and grave. Whatever may have been the object and motive of the architect, in this part of his design, he appears to have erred most completely in principle; by introducing a multiplicity of small and unpleasing parts at such a distance from the eye of the spectator, that their express meaning and execution cannot be descried. It is evident, however, that they represent numerous naked human figures, rising in varied attitudes from the sepulchre, (see Plate v*.) and we may thence conclude that the subject of the whole is the General Resurrection. A bold string course separates the third from the fourth or upper division of this elevation. The latter portion consists of three distinct parts, the centre gable, and two lateral towers. In the first we perceive the same style of decoration, in sculpture and niches, as in the lower portion of this front, and we may therefore conclude that it is part of the original design. Two handsome columnar pinnacles, with small columns attached, crown the lateral buttresses; and another, with niches, crockets, and finial, the centre. Beneath the latter is an elliptical niche, containing a broken statue, which was probably meant to personate the Deity: in another division below, is a series of twelve statues, all nearly perfect, and in a fine, broad, simple style of execution, most likely intended to represent the twelve apostles. The emblematic cross of St. Andrew sufficiently indicates that saint; but the others are not so clearly defined. A row of nine figures, with wings, and in various positions, occupy as many niches beneath, and were probably intended as symbolical of the Heavenly Hierarchy. The towers are so much alike that we should conclude they were erected at the same time, and from the same design, if the history of them, as already detailed, was not so specific: the only variation being in the niches and statues attached to the northern tower. An attempt to designate and describe all the statues and sculptured figures of this front would require a long dissertation, and would necessarily be occupied by much conjectural reasoning. It must therefore suffice to remark, that the statues of the size of life, and larger, amount to one hundred and fifty-three in number; whilst the smaller figures may be

calculated at double that amount. Mr. Carter, in his work on "Antient Sculpture and Painting," has published slight etchings of the statues, by which their general forms, positions, and costumes may be understood; but they are too slight in drawing, and too roughly executed to satisfy and inform the critical antiquary. Mr. Gough's "Attempt to explain these several Statues," published in the same work, leaves them unexplained and undefined. The statues, "siding the great west door," he remarks, "are chiefly Kings and Bishops who were benefactors to or filled this See." The Sovereigns of Wessex, from Ina to Ethelbert, were eight in number; and we find seven kings and one queen (Sexburga) near the western entrance. The two other figures of queens may be, he continues, the two consorts of Ina, Ethelburga and Desburga. Twenty-one mitred figures, on the west face, he conjectures were meant to represent the successive Prelates of this See from Adelm to Joceline, and six others on the northern return, he thinks, were successors of Joceline; but as he includes Harewell's statue among the above, we cannot place much reliance on the conjecture. The former series represents kings, queens, knights in armour, and ecclesiastics; whilst the latter are mostly historical, typifying some event or personage of Holy Writ. As evidences in the history of art and illustrative of antient costume these sculptures are peculiarly interesting, and would form a very curious subject for a distinct publication. Mr. Flaxman, in his Lectures delivered at the Royal Academy, has noticed them in terms of commendation.

The subjects of PLATES IV. and v*. have been amply described in the preceding pages, but there are three other Plates connected with the west front to be noticed, in order to render them familiar to the general reader, and make the text and prints illustrative of each other.

PLATE IV*. is a view of two divisions of the buttresses and tower, at the north-east angle, showing their junction with the aisle, and the rich effect of this part of the building. Here we have a splendid collection and display of ancient statues, placed in their canopied housings, with other decorative sculpture, enriched capitals, slender columns, angular crockets, and numerous mouldings. Some of the statues, in this part of the edifice, are more perfect and in a better style than those in the western façade. It is a singular



Engraved by Varroil

Drawn by H. Haw

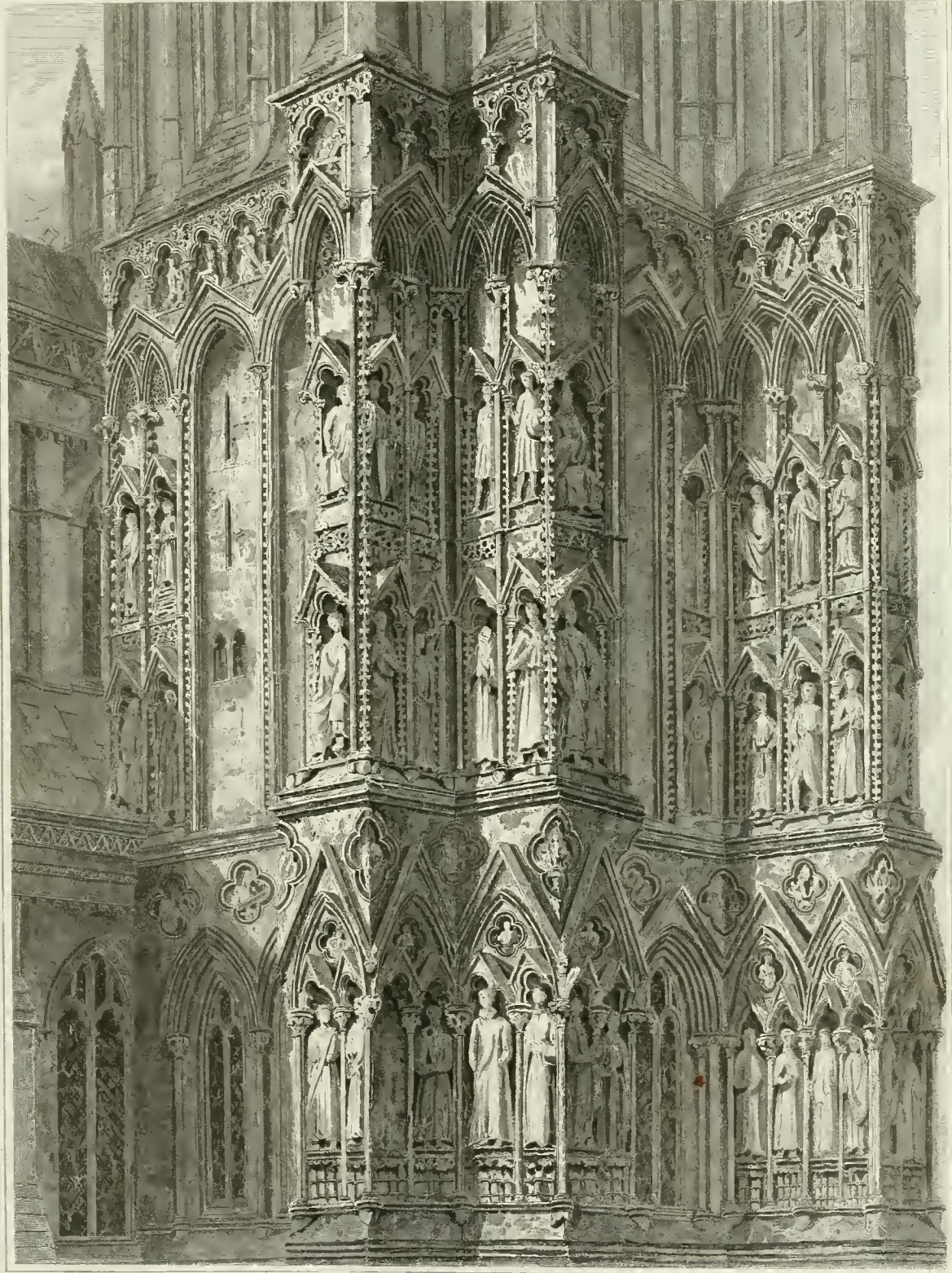
W. & A. G. & C. CO. LONDON.

WEST FRONT

TO THE REV. ROBERTS M. A. PRO-CHANCELLOR OF REIMS CATHEDRAL. In this plate is inscribed by the AUTHOR

London: Printed by R. & A. G. & C. CO. LONDON. 1859.

HAWARD



Drawn by H Shaw

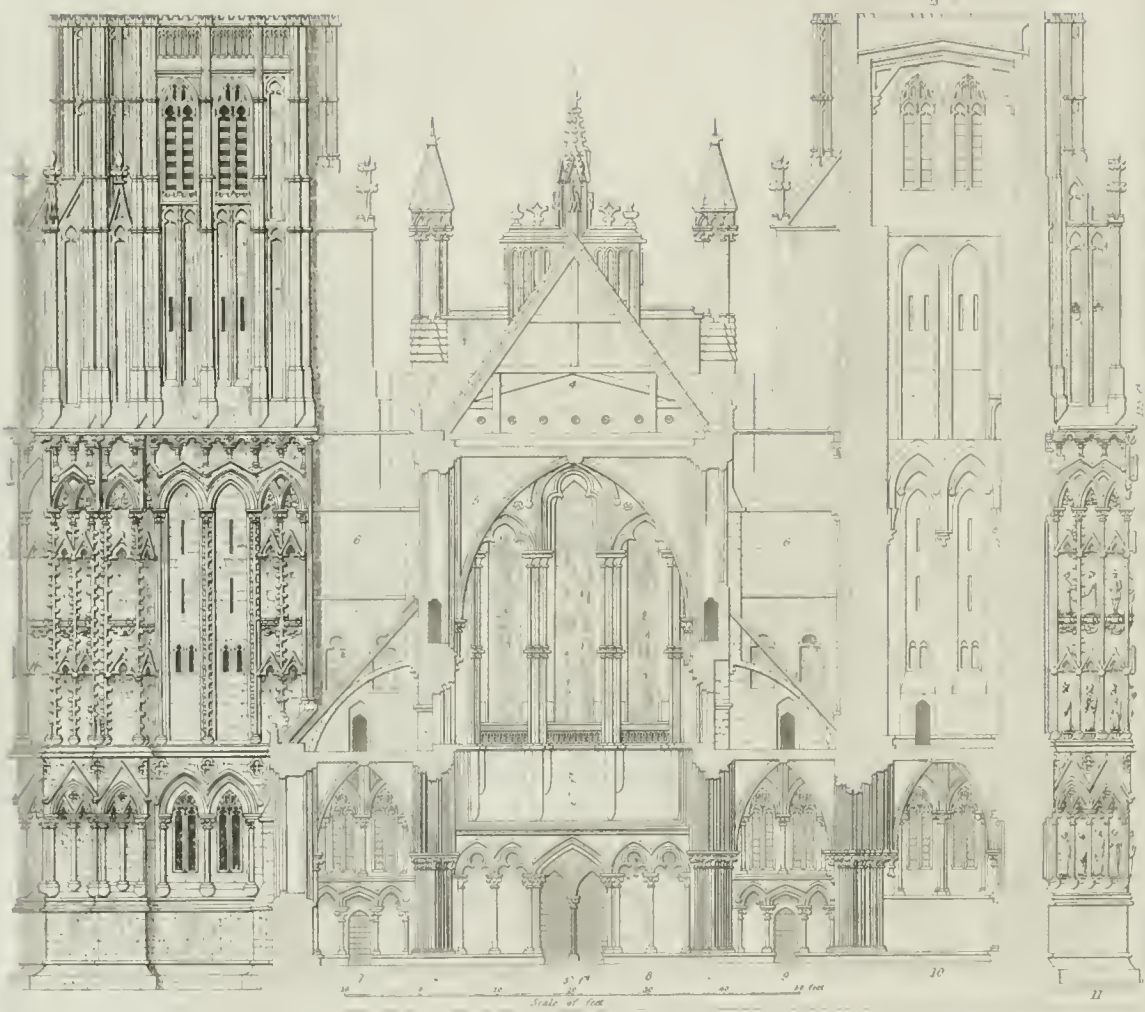
Engraved by F. & S. 1841.

WELLS CATHEDRAL

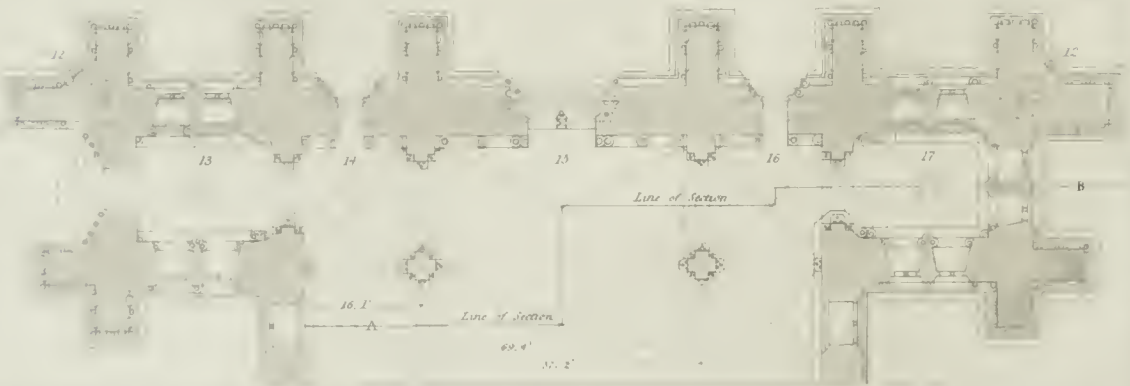
BUTTRICK & NORTH TOWER.

To the REV^d WILL^m CONYBEARE, OF BRISTOLTON SOMERSETSHIRE as a testimony of Friendship by the AUTHOR

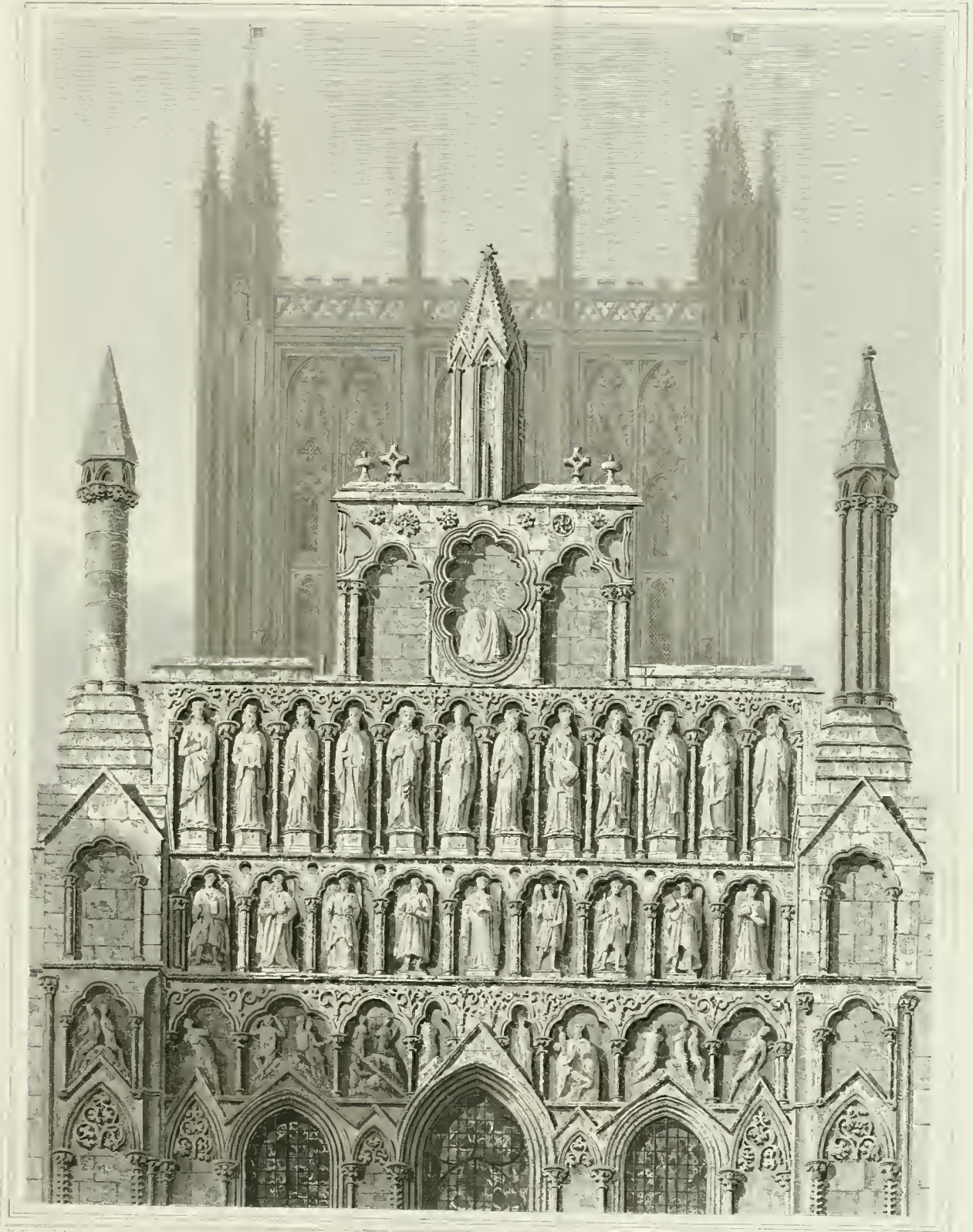
London Published Aug 11. 1841, by Longman & Co



147. 6'



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H Shaw del.

J. Le Keux sc.

WELLS CATHEDRAL

WEST FRONT, CENTRE DIVISION, AT THE TOP

SIR JOHN FOX HIPPELLEY RAJ. FR & A.S. an admirer & patron of Antiquarian Literature. This Plate is inscribed to him.

London, Published May 10, 1854 by Longman & Co. Pittersburgh Ro.



Drawn by J. Martin. Sketch by H. Shaw

Le Reux

THE HISTORY OF THE
 VIEW FROM THE SOUTH EAST

By JOHN RICHARDSON, ESQ. F.R.S. &c. &c. &c. Plate I. of the
 A. D. 1851

London, published by J. G. Fisher, 1851.



Engraved by J Le Keux from Sketches by Pattermole

Scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 foot

WELLS CATHEDRAL CHURCH.
COMPONENT OF THE NAVE &c. INTERIOR & EXTERIOR.

circumstance that the superabundant sculpture of this front should have escaped the battering iconoclasts of the early part of the sixteenth century, when such devastating havoc was made with the religious statues, bassi-relievi, and paintings of other cathedrals and monasteries. Was Cromwell, the then Dean of this Church, and prime minister to the tyrannic Henry, the cause of this preservation?

PLATE V. Section of the nave and aisles and northern tower, with elevation of the east side of the southern tower, looking west. The ground plan of the same part of the building is engraved beneath, to the same scale. The Line A B, on the plan, indicates the direction and situation of the section. The principal dimensions are figured, both in the plan and section. No. 1, is the exterior eastern face of the south tower; 2, section of the north tower, with elevation of the eastern face of the north-west buttress at u; 3, central compartment, or elevation of the nave, with the roof and timber work; 4, arched ceiling; 5, three western windows, with their clustered columns and bands, double doorway, and blank arches on each side; the western ends of the aisles are at 7, and 9. The rear of the wall of the west front is marked 6, 6.

PLATE XIX. consists of delineations of fourteen different ornamental parts of the west front, the relative situations of which may be traced by referring to Plates IV. and v*.

IN PLATES III. VI. VII. XV. and XXI. various other *exterior* features of the church are displayed.

PLATE III. shews the fine and interesting north porch, part of the clerestory of the nave, two sides of the great central tower, the north transept branching from the tower, part of the staircase to the chapter house, and a small portion of that building. The north *Porch* is a lofty, oblong vestibule, vaulted and groined, and divided into two equal portions by clustered columns at the sides, as indicated in the ground plan, at s. Each side is divided horizontally into three tiers by two string courses, and each story is ornamented with blank arches, springing from insulated and attached columns, &c. A lofty double doorway, with a central column, forms the opening to the church, whilst the opposite entrance to the porch is by a tall and deep open arch. This consists of several bold mouldings, three of which are sculptured with diagonal and foliated ornaments. On each side of the archway are insulated

columns, with bold enriched capitals, among the foliage of which, on the eastern side, are several human figures; one of them is fastened to a tree, and apparently pierced with arrows: other figures are provided with bows; in another group is a headless man and two other men; and in a third, a man in the act of seizing the head from the jaws of some animal. This sculpture is supposed to represent three events in the life and death of St. Edmund, King, and Martyr, who was shot by the Danes with arrows "on all sides," and afterwards decapitated, Nov. 20th, anno 870. It may be remarked, in this place, that an uniform *parapet*, with corbel table and block cornice, continues all round the Church, both on the clerestory and the ailes; and it may be further noticed that the masonry of the whole building, excepting the western front, is good, sound, and skilfully executed. Perhaps there is not a church in the kingdom, of the same age, where the stone has been so well chosen, better put together, and where it remains in so perfect a state. This deserves the particular notice and study of architects. The style and architectural finishings of the *central tower*, with its parapet and clustered pinnacles, are shewn perspectively in this view, and are also displayed in elevation, in Plate v*. and both in elevation and section in Plate xvi. The latter marks the height to which the old part of the tower was carried up both internally and externally.

PLATE VI. is a view of the church from the south east, taken from a garden, where two or three of the principal springs of Wells emerge from the earth. In finishing this drawing the artist has taken the liberty of planting, grouping, and disposing the trees in the foreground rather to please the eye than to accord with the present state of the place. Where the scenery is so liable to annual change this is not of much consequence, and is very allowable: the view of the building is accurately and skilfully represented, both by the draftsman and the engraver. It displays the east and southern sides of the Lady Chapel, end and side of the south aile, with its small transept or chapel; the east end over the altar, the south transept, centre tower, &c.

In PLATES VII. XV. and XVI. are representations of the leading architectural features of the *exterior of the building*, in addition to the western front. Plate VI. shews one compartment of the outside of the nave and its aile; i. e. the forms, proportions, and dressings of the parapets, corbel tables, and

blocking cornices, the flat buttresses, and intermediate windows of two lights each, with simple tracery, &c. In Plate XVI. we find that the same style prevails in all those parts in the south transept; and in this plate we observe that the architect has employed the *flying buttress* from the clerestory of the nave to the wall of the aisle, but has concealed it beneath the lead roof of the aisle. All the nave and transept is of this style, and is most probably of the same date. The number of divisions or compartments may be seen by the Ground Plan. East of the choir we see, by the plan, a different style in proportion and forms; and we perceive this more palpably by an examination of Plates VI. XIV. XV. and XVII.; all of which serve to illustrate this portion of the Church. PLATE XV. B, shews one compartment externally of the south aisle and clerestory of the presbytery. The windows, flying buttresses, and dressings, are very different from those of the nave and transept, and are evidently of later date. The buttress on the west side of the window is much broader than the other, and indeed of any in the building: it is immediately behind or south of the Bishop's throne, and seems to mark some distinguishing event, or era, in the erection or construction of the church. As already noticed (p. 88—90,) we see by this Plate of the interior and exterior compartments, also by Plate VI., and by the Plan, that all the work eastward of the choir is of a later, more ornamental, and lighter style of architecture than that to the west.

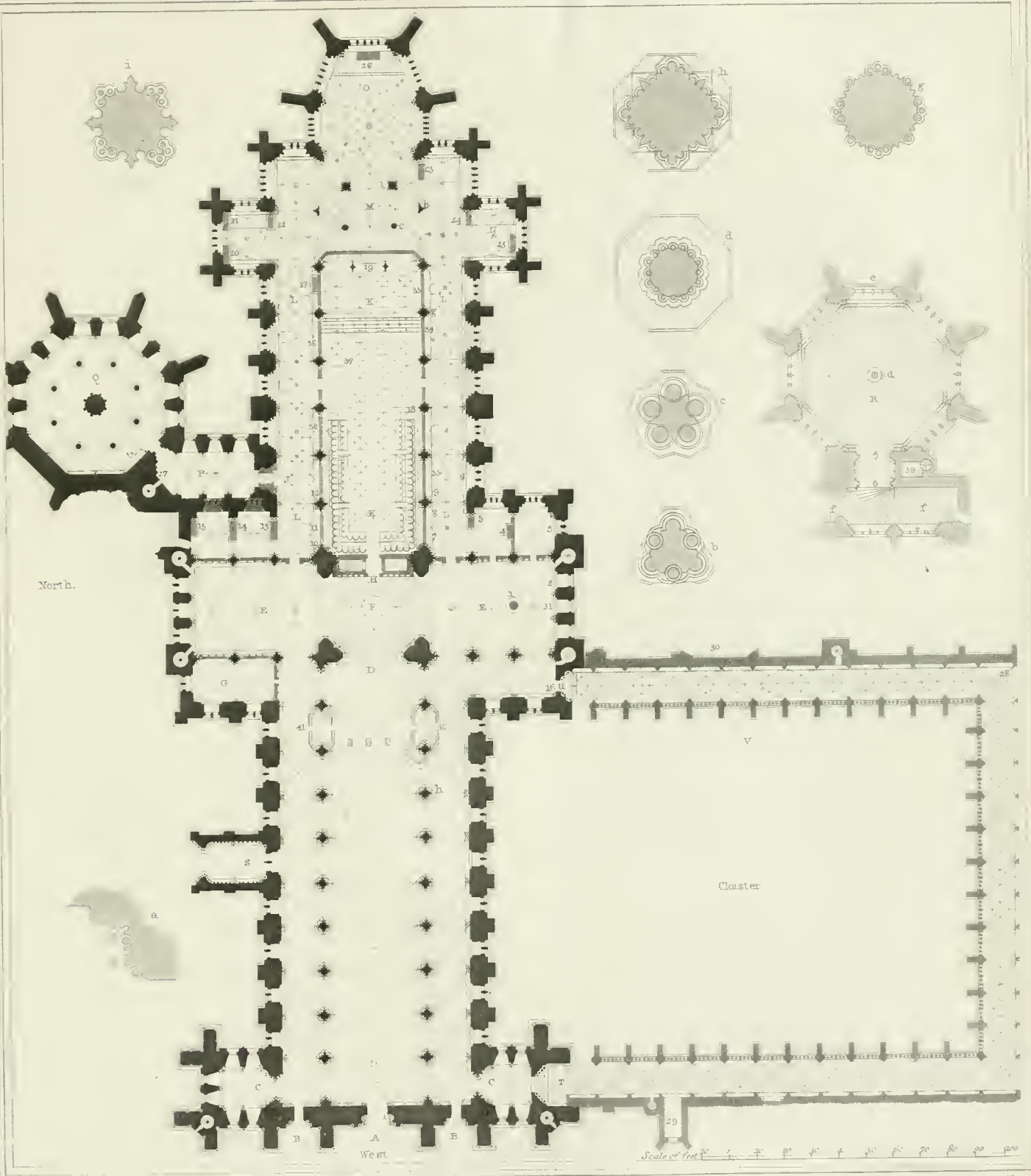
As our illustrations do not display the exterior features of the cloister, south transept, south side of the nave, and the chapter house, it will be expedient to remark that the transept is very similar in its form and ornaments to that of the north. The elevation of the nave presents a series of windows, buttresses, parapets, &c. precisely corresponding to the one shewn in Plate VII. The *Cloister* bounds three sides of an open quadrangle, with a series of graduated buttresses, between every two of which is an open window with mullions and tracery. Over this cloister, adjoining the transept, and communicating with it by a staircase in the south-west buttress, is a long room appropriated as a library. Over the opposite cloister are other rooms, used as the registry. At 28, in the ground plan, is a doorway of communication to the Bishop's palace; 30 is the site of a chapel, built by Bubwith, to which there was an entrance from the cloister; but this is now wholly

levelled to the ground; 29, an antient porch or entrance from the western cemetery, and communicating with the part finished by Beckington, as his monogram, and other distinguishing marks are conspicuous among the bosses of the groined roof. At v. is an ancient lavatory.

As shewn in the *plan*, PLATE I. at q and r, the *Chapter-House* is an octangular building, with one side attached to a staircase; and each of the seven other sides occupied by two small windows in the lower story, opening to the crypt, or rather apartment on the ground floor, and one large window above communicating to the chapter-room. These windows are bounded by buttresses, of unusual form, at the outer face; i. e. they finish with an angle at the extremity, instead of being square. The buttresses are surmounted with crocketed pinnacles, and are perforated with water-spouts, finished externally with monsters' heads. Over the windows and between each two buttresses are several small apertures to the space between the lead and groined roof. A perforated parapet surrounds the upper part of this building, as represented in Plate IX.

Before we proceed to examine the interior of the Cathedral, it will be advisable to name and point out its various parts, and the chief objects it contains. This will be best done by an examination of the

GROUND PLAN, Pl. I. and references to the letters and figures engraved on it. A, central division and entrance doorway to the nave; B B, doorways to the ailes; C C, north and south towers; D D, nave, with a series of nine clustered columns on each side, and ten arches opening to the ailes; E E, transept north and south of the tower; G, west aile of the northern transept, used as a clock room and vestry; H, entrance to the choir under the organ screen; K, choir; L L, its north and south ailes; M, centre of a sexagonal compartment between the altar-screen and lady chapel, forming a kind of open portico to the latter; N, south end of a small transept, with a corresponding part or chapel to the north; O, altar end of the lady chapel; P, vestibule to a chapel, called the crypt (q) beneath the chapter-room, a plan of which is given at R; the north porch is pointed out at S; T is an enriched doorway from the south tower to the cloister.—The small letters refer to parts of the building:—a, plan of south side of the centre western doorway; b, plan of clustered column behind the altar; c, ditto of an adjoining column; d, cen-



Drawn & Measured by G. Catmole.

Engraved by J. Le Keux.

WELLS CATHEDRAL,
GROUND PLAN, — PLANS OF PARTS, &c.

London, Published July 1, 1823, by Longman & C^o. Paternoster Row.

EX. 1.

tral column of the chapter-house; e, east end of chapter-house; f, f, staircase to the same; g, plan of column in the presbytery, three on each side of which correspond; h, column in the nave; i, column near the lady chapel.

The series of numerals refer to the sites of monuments, &c.—1, font; 2, monument of Joan, Viscountess Lisle; 3, John Storthwait, Chancellor; 4, Dean Husèe; 5, Bishop Harewell; 7, 8, 9, antient mutilated effigies, said to be those of Bishops Burwold, Ethelwyn, and Brithwyn; 10, 11, 12, ditto, said to be those of Bishops Britelm, Kineward, and Alwyn; 13, 14, two plain altar tombs, covered with slabs of black marble, containing the remains of the “Bishops’ officers;” 15, Dean Cornish (see title-page); 16, entrance to cloisters from the south transept; 17, Bishop Kidder; 18, the Bishop’s throne; 19, the altar; 20, Bishop Berkeley; near which is an antient effigy of Friar Milton; 21, Bishop Creighton; 22, Dean Forest; 23, Dean Gunthorpe; 24, Bishop Bitton, the first; 25, Bishop Drokensford; 26, altar in the lady chapel; 27, staircase from the lower apartment of the chapter-house to the roof; 28, entrance from the Bishop’s palace to the cloisters; 29, entrance to the registry; 30, site of a chapel built by Bishop Bubwith; 31, Bishop de Marchia; 32, an antient piscina in the chapter-house; 33, Bishop Still; 34, Bishop Beckington’s chantry chapel and monument; 35, Bishop Bitton, the second; 36, Bishop de Salopia; 37, burial place of Bishop Joceline de Wells; 38, antient effigy, said to be Bishop Giso; 39, a small apartment in the staircase of the chapter-house, supposed to have been a cell or prison for refractory ecclesiastics; 40, chantry chapel, built by Dr. Hugh Sugar, one of Bishop Beckington’s three executors, who are intombed beneath three large slabs in the nave, near the chantry; 41, Bishop Bubwith’s monumental chapel.

The *Interior architectural features* of the Church are characterised and delineated in PLATES II. V. VII. VIII. IX. X. XI. XII. XIII. XIV. XV. XVI. XVII. XVIII. XXI. and XXII. The *Nave* presents an uniform series of columns, arches, triforium, clerestory, and vaulting; and the windows, vaulting, and columns of the ailes are of the same style and date. A solid and substantial character pervades the whole, whilst the capitals and other decorative parts are sculptured in a free, fanciful, and masterly style. Plate VII. shews an elevation of one compartment from the floor to the roof. Plate VIII. is a view from

under the tower at the north-west, displaying two columns of the nave, with an arch of many mouldings, and two clusters of columns with highly wrought capitals. Plate XII. is a view of the nave from under the central tower, looking west, in which the two splendid monumental chantries on the north and south sides of the nave are represented. Other sculptural portions of this division of the Church are displayed in Plate II. figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and from 9 to 17; also in Plates XIII. and XXII.

Advancing eastward we view with astonishment the singular series of abutments of double arches raised between the four piers under the centre tower (See Plates XVI. and XXI.), and naturally wish to ascertain the time and cause of their erection. That the architect who designed the original central tower intended to carry it nearly or quite as high as the present building we can scarcely doubt; and we cannot easily question his competency to the task, after minutely examining other parts of the edifice: yet the architect who raised the two upper divisions of that structure must have considered the piers incompetent to sustain the additional superstructure, and therefore adopted this novel mode to give security and stability to his new work. As the walls of the choir, transept, and nave formed substantial buttresses to the exterior of the tower piers, these double arches, with open spandrils, were calculated to form a counterpoise to the lateral pressure. At Salisbury we find a similar principle adopted, but different in design. (See Plate XII. in the "History," &c. of that Cathedral). At Wells, the abutment is continued from the bottom to the top of the pier: but at Salisbury it appears to act only on a small part of it. The accompanying view (Plate XXI.) shews these double arched buttresses, also the interior of the north transept, &c.; and the connoisseur, whilst examining the ingenuity and science of the architect, cannot fail of being much delighted with the skilful execution manifested by the engraver.

An organ screen, of stone, separates the choir from the centre aisle of the transept. It will not, however, detain us by its richness or beauty: nor shall we find much to excite admiration in its ponderous organ case⁵. The

⁵ The Organ was raised by the direction of Dean Creighton, in 1664; and was completely repaired, &c. by Mr. S. Green, of London, in 1786, at the expense of the then Dean and chapter.

doorways to the ailes (see Plate XVI.) are in a much better style, and are worthy of delineation. The *Choir* is fitted up with twenty stalls on each side, and ten at the west end, with bishop's throne, pulpit, pews, &c. The three first arches, east of the tower, with the columns, &c. are similar to those of the nave; but the three on each side of the presbytery are more lofty, lighter in character, and more elegant in proportions. They are displayed in Plate XV., in which the character of the stalls, the design of the bishop's throne, the doorway to the south aile, the highly wrought and elaborate screen work in front of the triforium, the tracery, with the interior and exterior of three different windows, as well as the groining of the roof, are all accurately delineated. In Plate XIV., the eastern end of the presbytery, with the altar, three arches above, opening to the lady chapel, the painted window filling up the apex of the arch, with the series of niches, &c. are clearly defined. On the south side is a view of part of Beckington's once sumptuous monumental chapel, which is now most lamentably broken and defaced. Beyond it is Bishop Still's monument.

Passing from the choir, through the south aile, and turning eastward, the stranger is conducted to the *Lady Chapel*, and views it as displayed in Plate XVII. Among the rich, the picturesque, and fanciful combinations of ecclesiastical architecture, there is not one, perhaps, in England to compare with that now alluded to: here we see different groups of clustered columns, with many reed-like shafts, crowned by richly-foliated capitals, and branching off into numerous ribbed ramifications; at the intersections of which are several bosses, sculptured into elegant wreaths and clusters of foliage. Tombs, with episcopal effigies, &c. a sumptuous shrine, large windows filled with tracery mouldings and deeply-toned stained glass, are the varied and combining objects of this fascinating scene. The small scale of the accompanying print precludes all possibility of defining either the minute details or the effect of such a view; it was therefore thought more advisable to attempt the former than the latter.

Branching from the north aile of the choir, and passing through a vaulted vestibule, we enter the octangular Chapel or Room beneath the Chapter House; for being on the same floor as the church, and above ground, it

cannot properly be called a crypt. Its form, dimensions, and plan are shewn in Plate I. Q, and its architectural character and effect in Plate XI. Its vaulted roof is sustained by a central clustered column, and by eight other columns of single shafts ranged round the other concentrically. It will be observed that the capitals are very large, for the purpose of sustaining the six broad ribs which rest on each. Suspended from one of the arches is a wooden lantern, and near the door is a large and curious piscina, having the sculptured figure of a dog with a bone lying in the basin. This room is now merely a place for timber; outside of the door, in the vestibule, is a fixed stone lantern, and in the same place are some antient stone coffins, &c.

Among the novelties and singularities of Wells Cathedral is the *Chapter House*, the floor of which is about twenty feet above that of the church: it is therefore approached by a staircase, branching off from the eastern aisle of the north transept, as drawn in the plan at R. A flight of forty-eight steps, f, f, leads to the chapter room, and to a passage or gallery still higher up, which, passing over three archways across the public road, conducts to the court called the Vicar's close. The architectural character and decorations of the chapter room are clearly and fully depicted in Plates IX. and X. and these cannot fail of impressing every person with an idea of the beauty, symmetry, and scientific construction of this member of the fabric. Around the seat and under the windows there are fifty-one stalls; and, including the Bishop's throne, there is the same number in the choir.

By examining PLATE IX. the reader will readily understand the design, construction, and arrangements of the Chapter house; A, A, buttresses; B, central pier of clustered columns; c, c, small columns to support the vaulting and floor; D, centre column in chapter room; E, E, roof and parapet; F, upper surface of vaulting of roof, and K, K, section through the same; U, section through the vaulting and ribs of the substructure.

PLATE XVIII. is a view of the stairs to the chapter house, and arched passage, as above described.

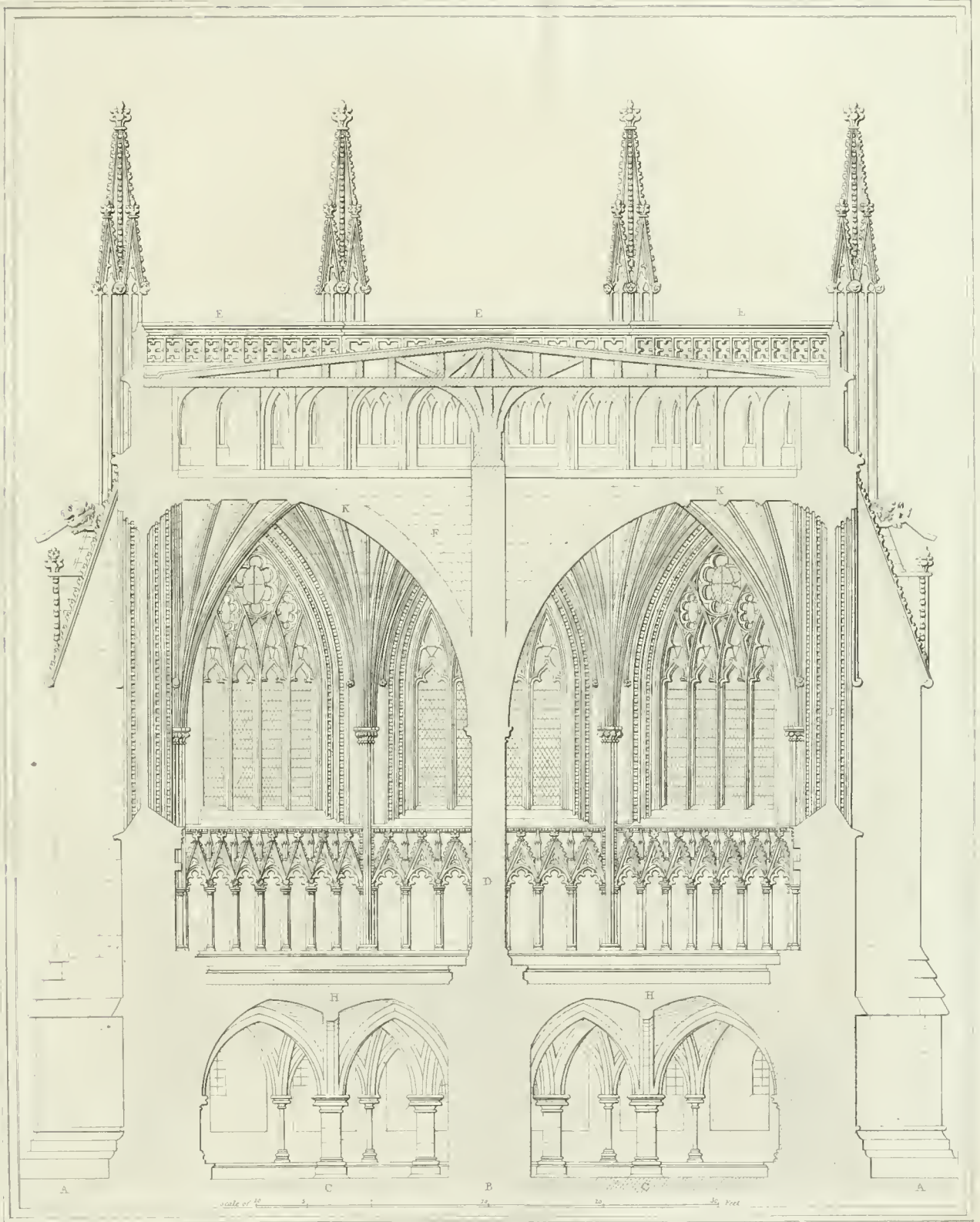


VIEW ACROSS THE NAVE & AISLES

The East Window of the Choir of the Cathedral of Wells, England, is a fine example of the work of the thirteenth century. It is a large window, and is filled with a beautiful stained glass. The window is supported by a large pier, and is surrounded by a decorative border. The window is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, and is a fine example of the work of the thirteenth century.

Hayward

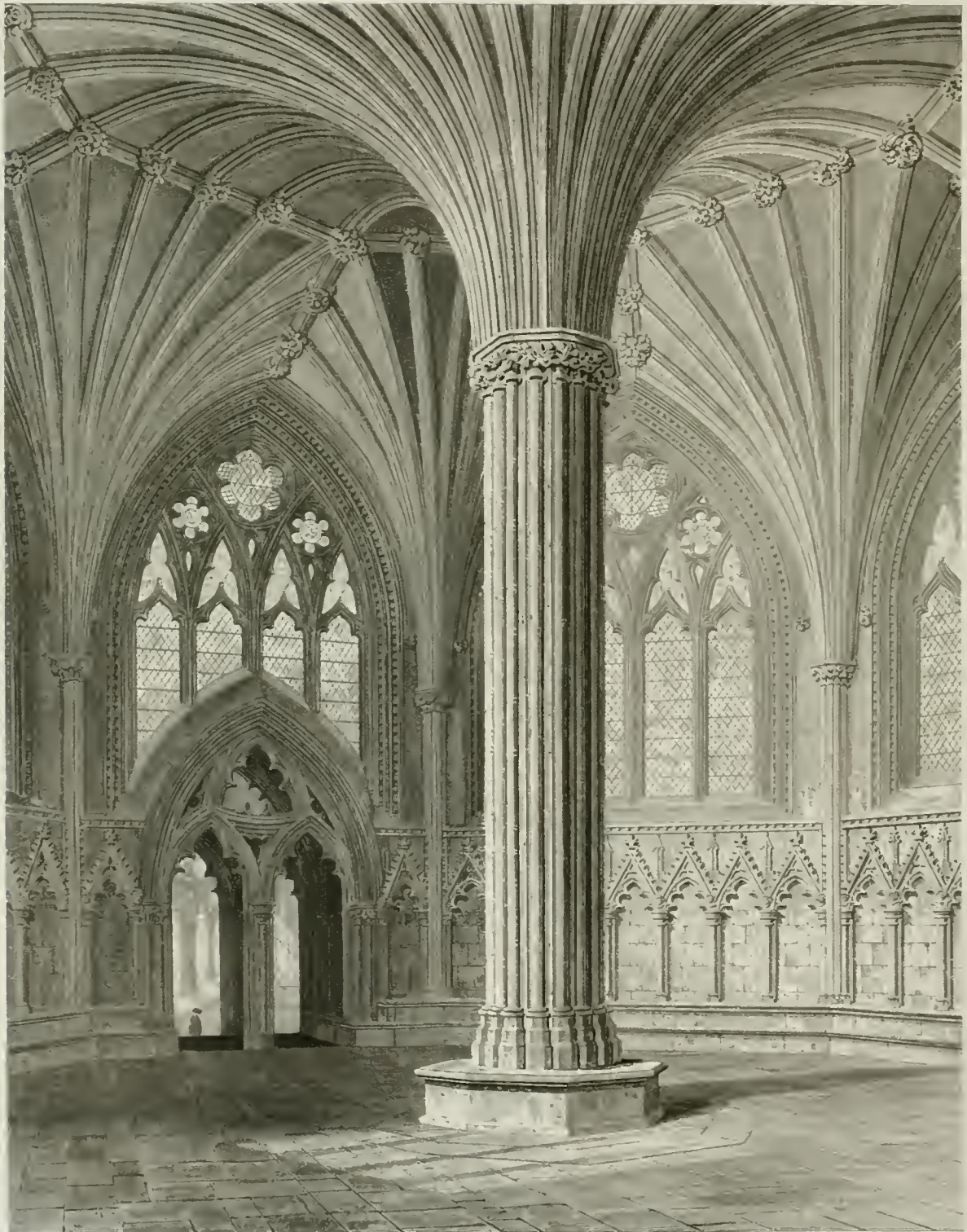
Engraved by W. Hayward, from a drawing by J. G. Hayward.



scale of 30 feet

THE CHOIR AND APSE OF THE CATHEDRAL OF BIRMINGHAM.
 SECTION OF THE CHOIR AND APSE.
 THE CHOIR AND APSE OF THE CATHEDRAL OF BIRMINGHAM.
 DRAWN BY J. H. STUBBS.

London: Published by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row, July 2, 1873.



Drawn by H. Sturtevant. Sketch by Paternole

Engraved by J. Le Keux

WELLS CATHEDRAL.

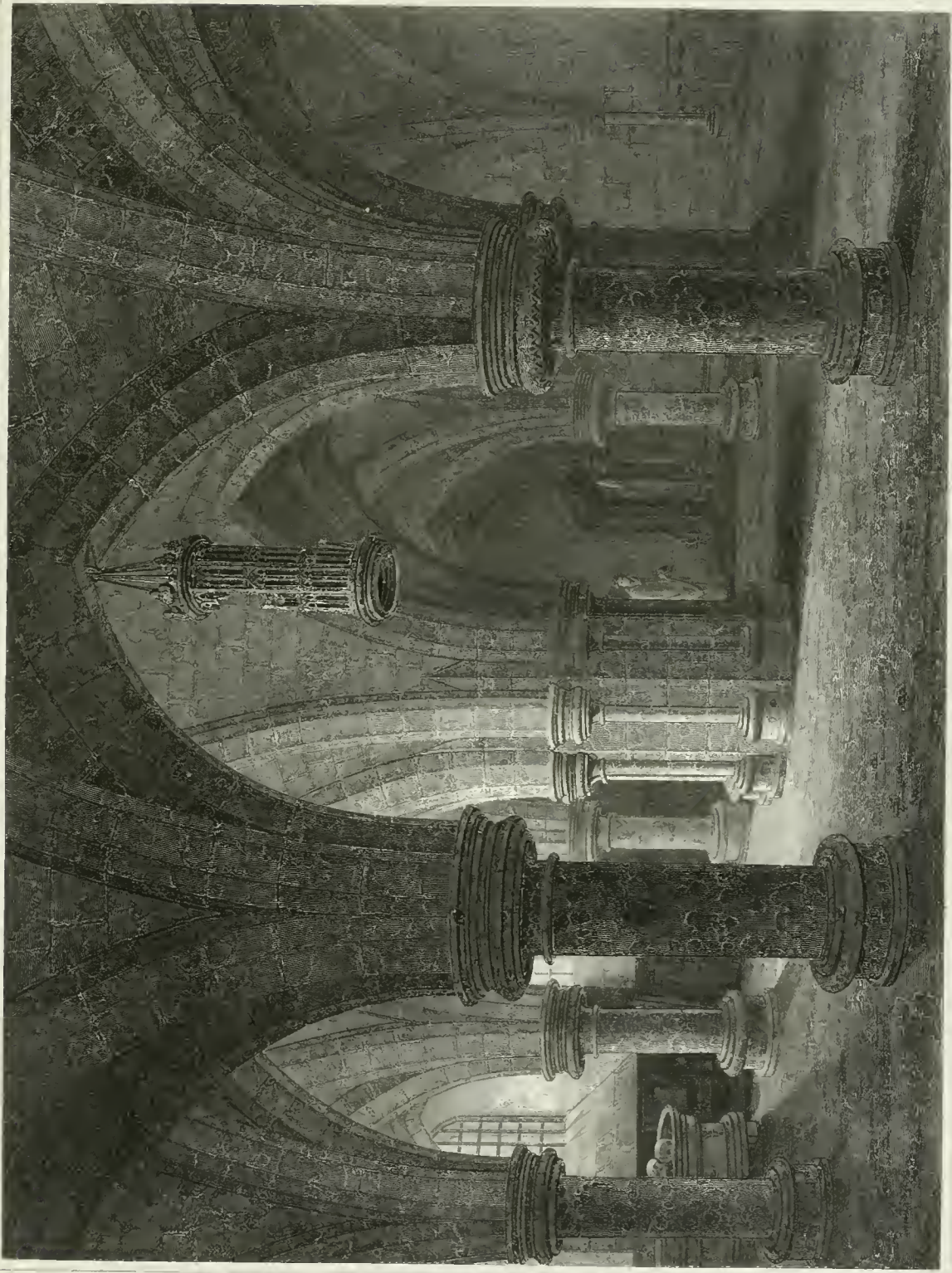
VIEW OF THE CHAPTER HOUSE LOOKING N. W.

TO THE REV. FREDERICK BEADEN V. A. CHANCELLOR &c. OF WELLS CATHEDRAL.

This Plate is inscribed by J. BURTON.

London, Published Nov. 1. 1873, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Car. 2. 00



Engraved by G. S. G. for the Rev. J. G. Nichols, by G. S. G.

THE REV. J. G. NICHOLS, TO THE REV. J. G. NICHOLS, BY G. S. G.

TO THE REV. J. G. NICHOLS, BY G. S. G. NICHOLS, BY G. S. G.

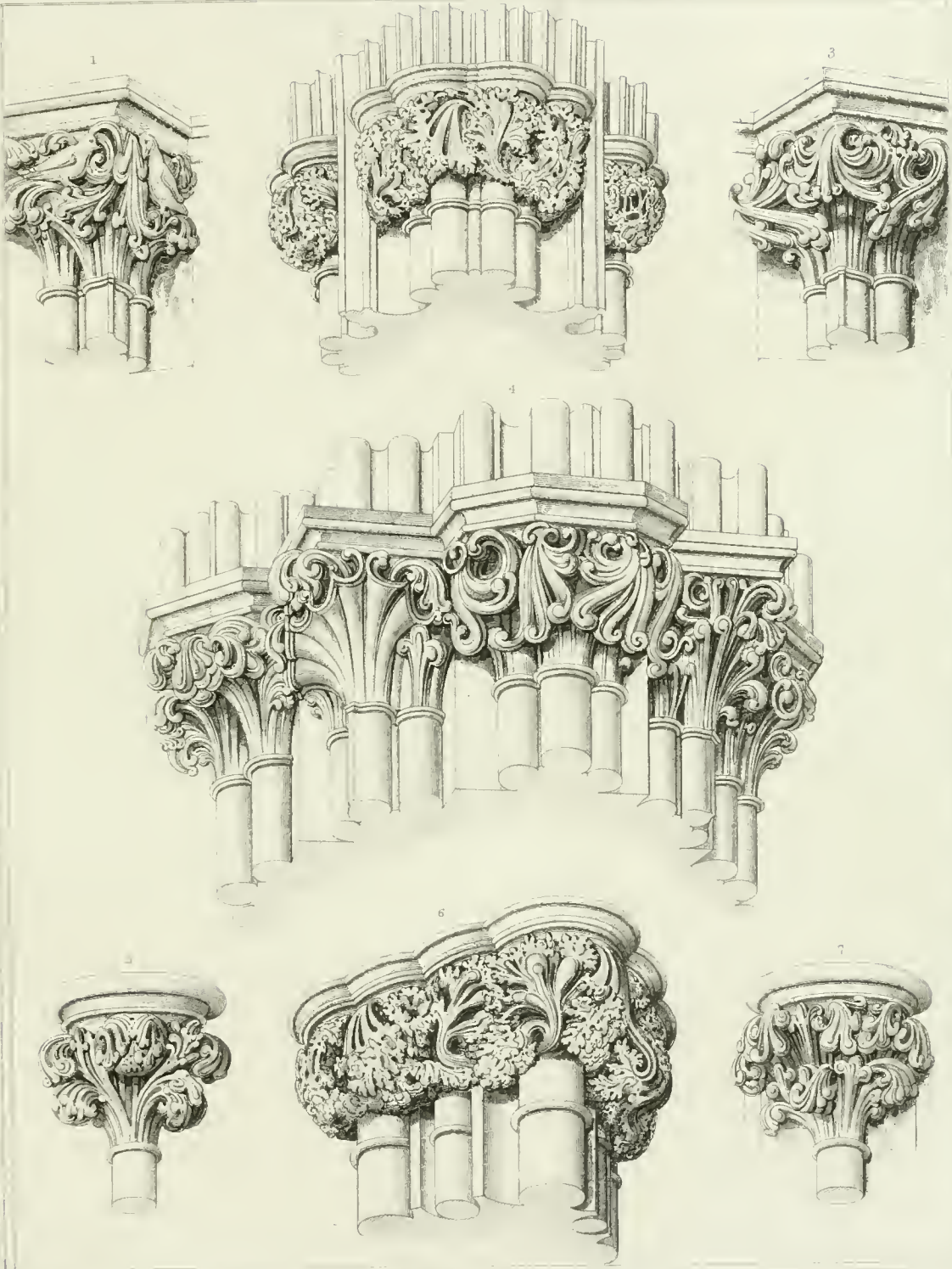
Printed and Published by G. S. G. Nichols, & Co. Boston, U.S.A.



THE GREAT ARCHITECTURE.
VIEW OF THE NAVE, LOOKING WEST

This engraving is inscribed as a testimony of friendship by J. BRITTON.

London: Published by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row, Nov. 1. 1825.
Cox & Co.



Cattermole del.

By Knorr sc.

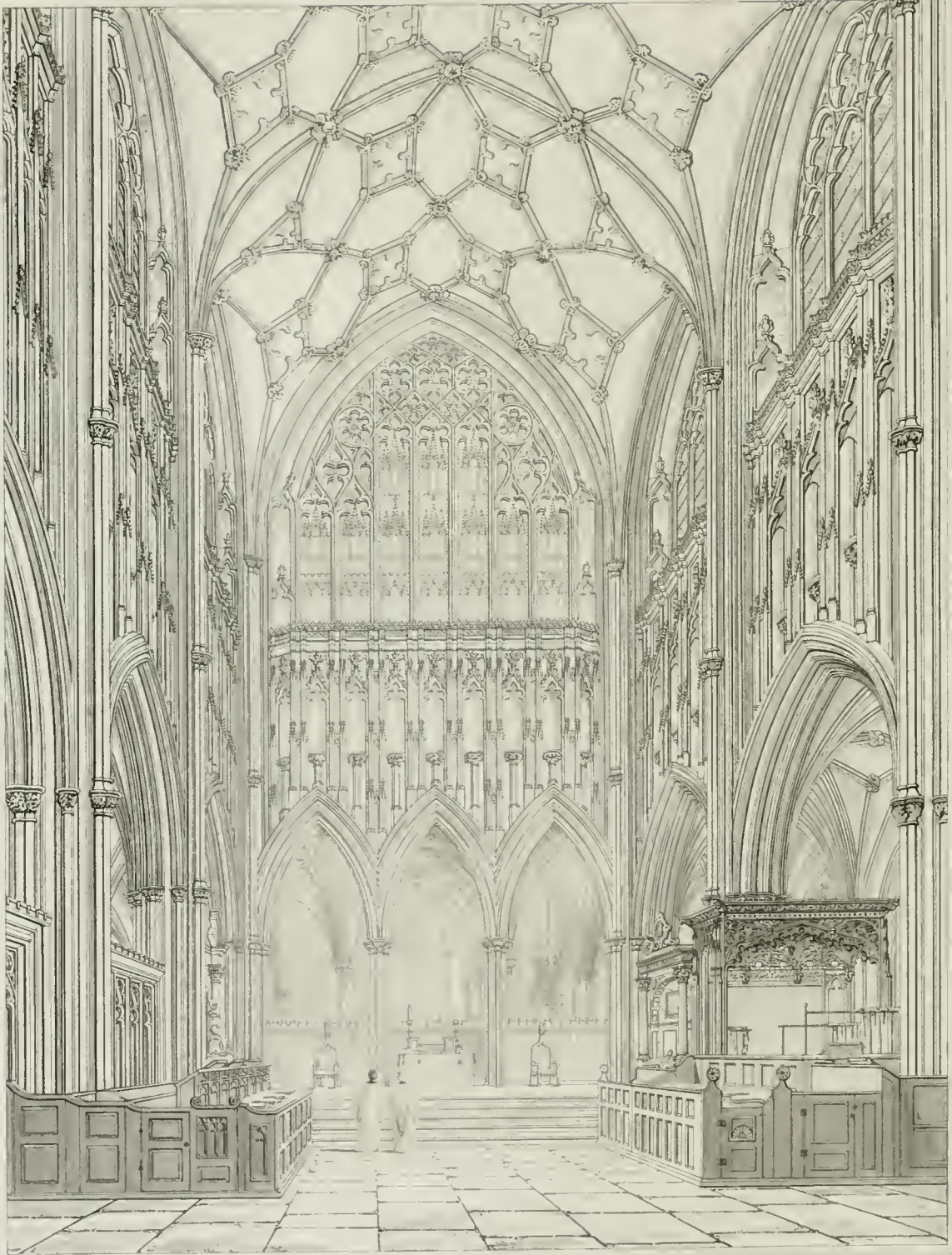
WELLS CATHEDRAL CHURCH.

SPECIMENS OF CAPITALS.

vide description.

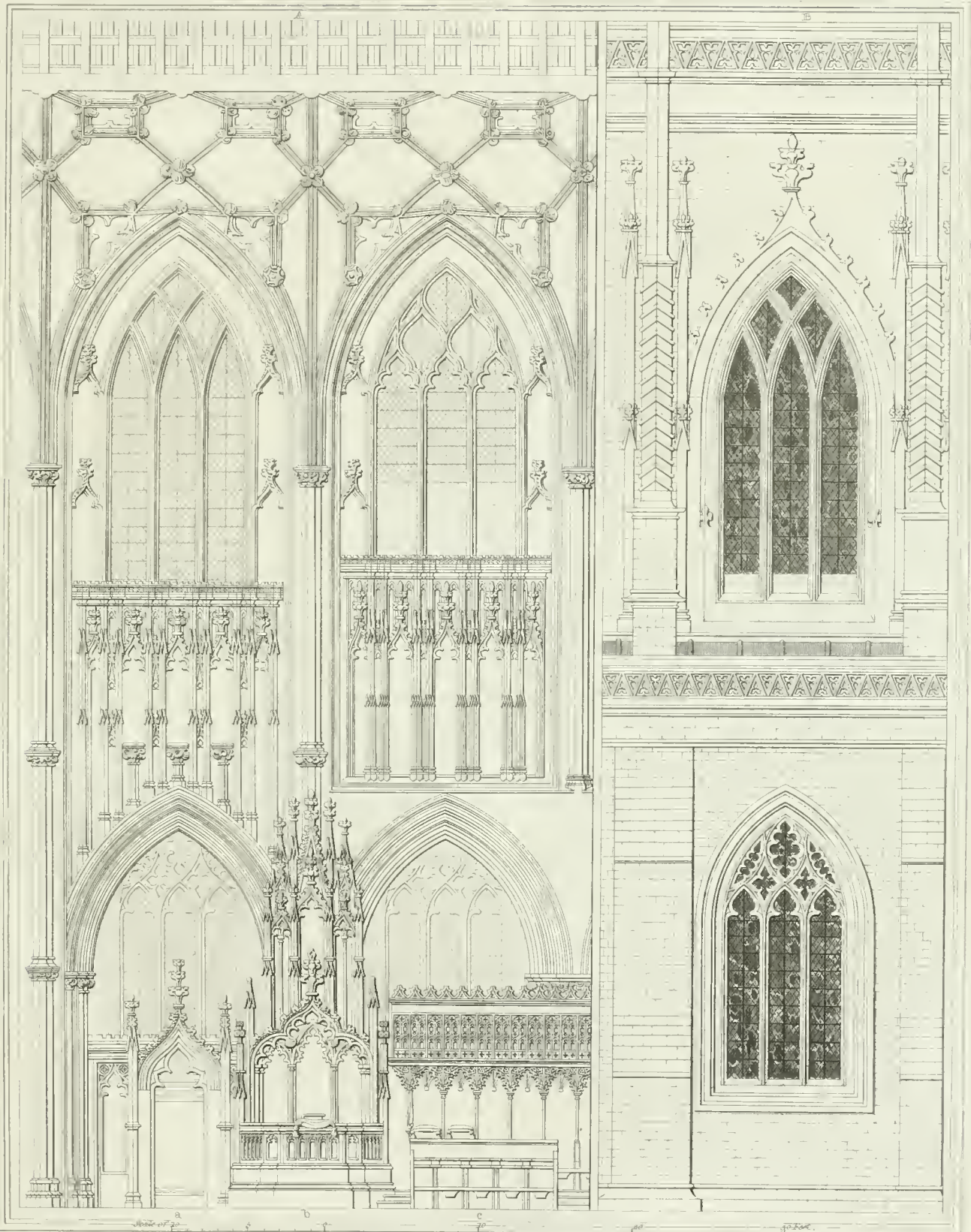
London Published by Longman & Paternoster Row July . 1822

Ward



Keble Chapel, Bath, W. G. 1851

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CATHEDRAL OF BATH, AS RESTORED BY MR. G. G. SCOTT, ARCHT. R.S.A., 1851. BY JOHN RICHARDSON, ARCHT. R.S.A.



G. Cattemdale del.

J. Le Keux sculp.

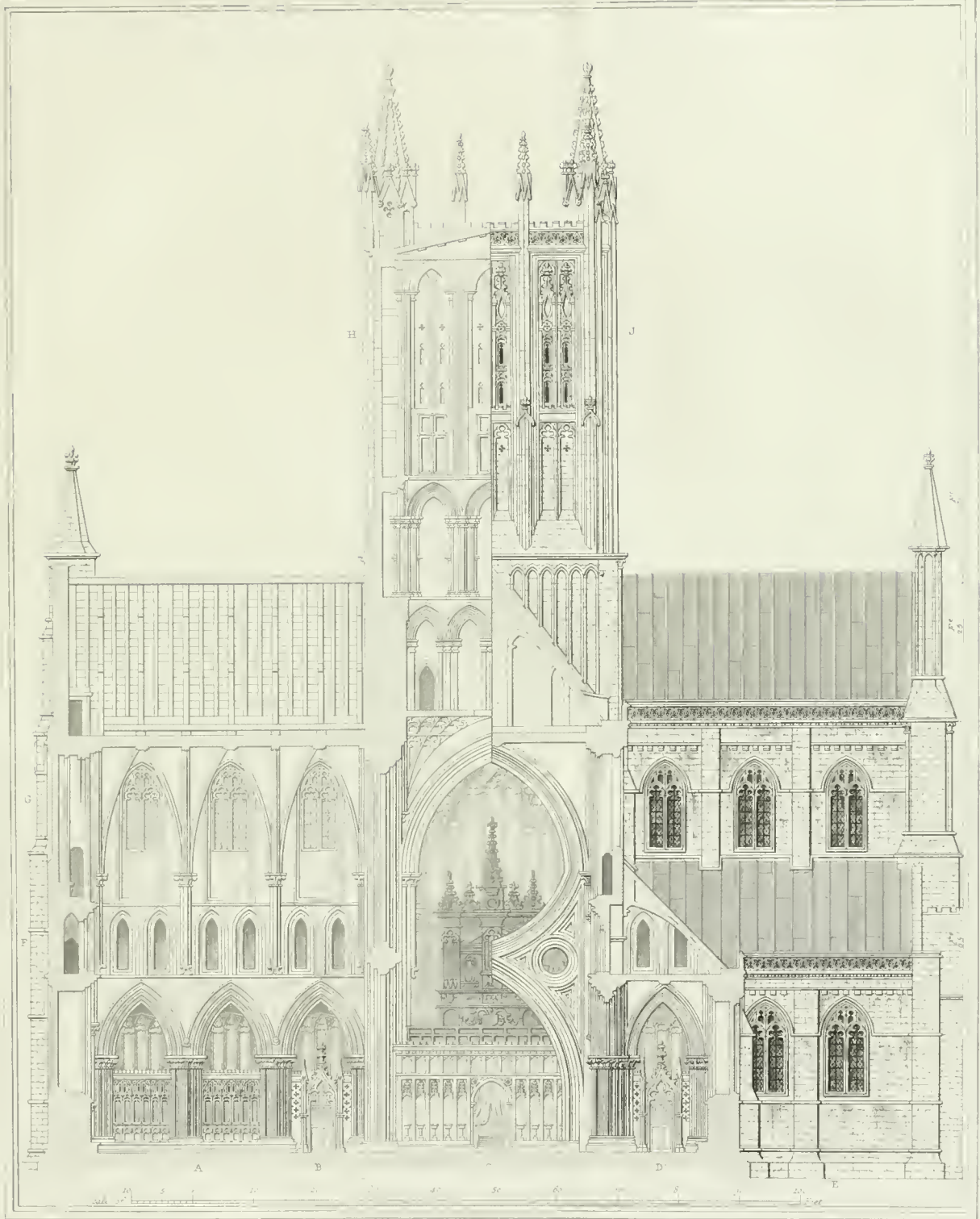
WELLS CATHEDRAL CHURCH,

COMPARTMENT, EXTERIOR & INTERIOR OF CHOIR.

(WITH DESCRIPTION.)

London, Published July 1 2 823, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row

Printed by H. Wood

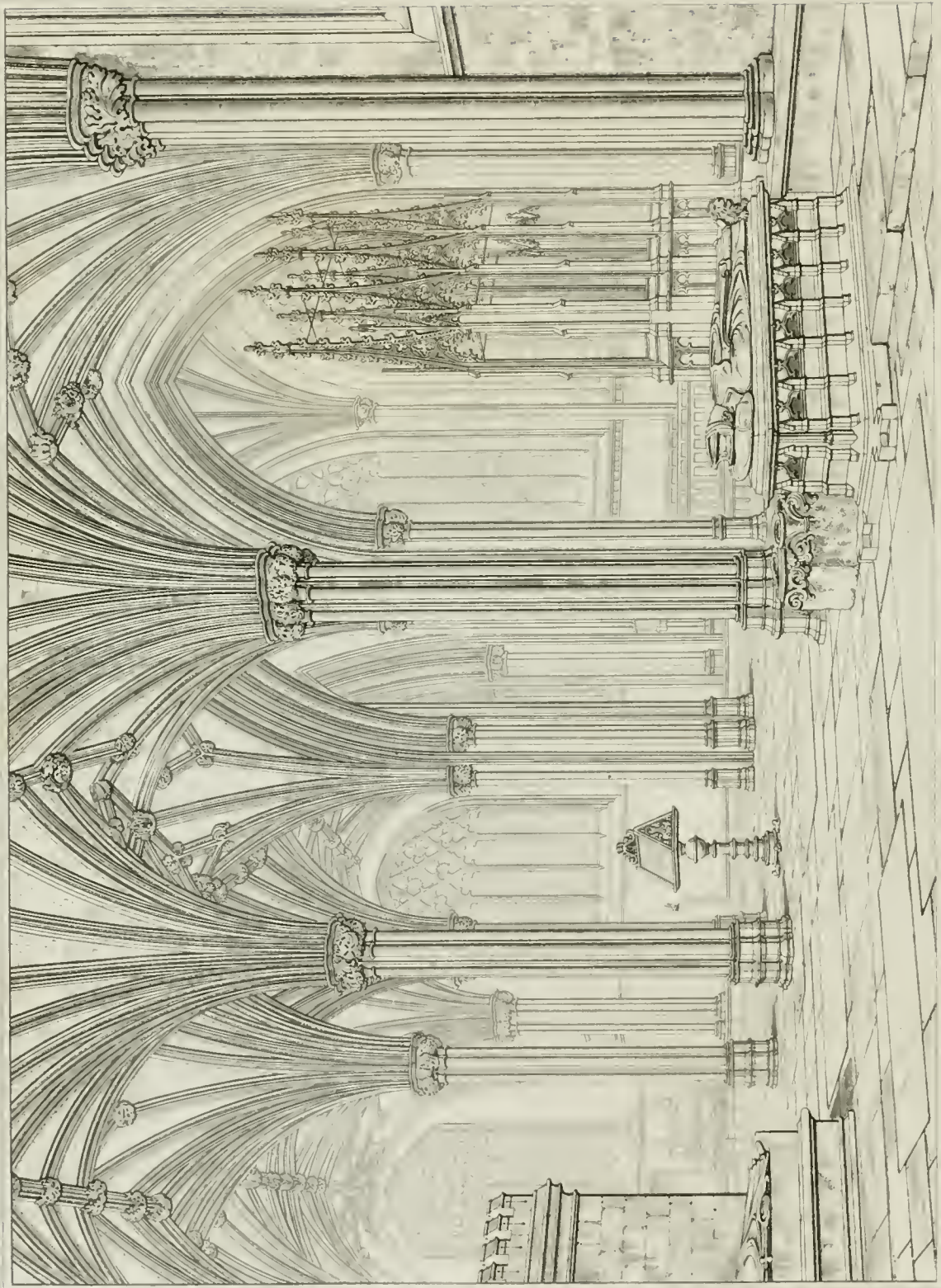


WELLS CATHEDRAL.

SECTION OF N. TRANSEPT & ELEVATION S. TRANSEPT, &c.

H. Warl

1847



Interior of the Hall - from the Vatican - Rome

Engraved by J. G. Thompson
Published by J. G. Thompson
1851



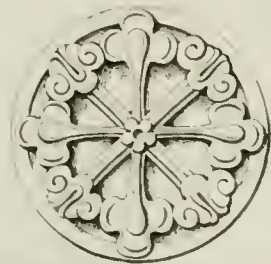
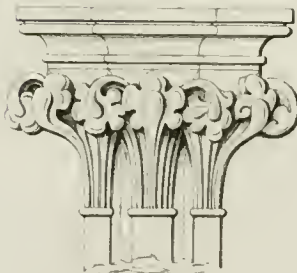
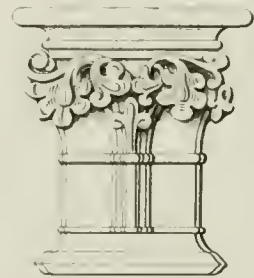
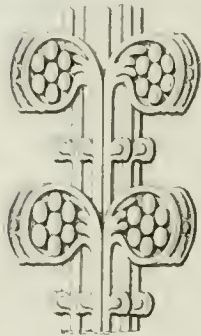
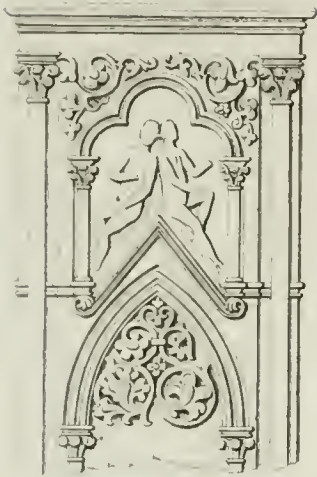
Mrs. Gandy, Esq. A.R.A. del. from sketches by H. Shaw

R. Sands sc.

WELLS CATHEDRAL
 STAIRS TO CHAPTER HOUSE, &c.

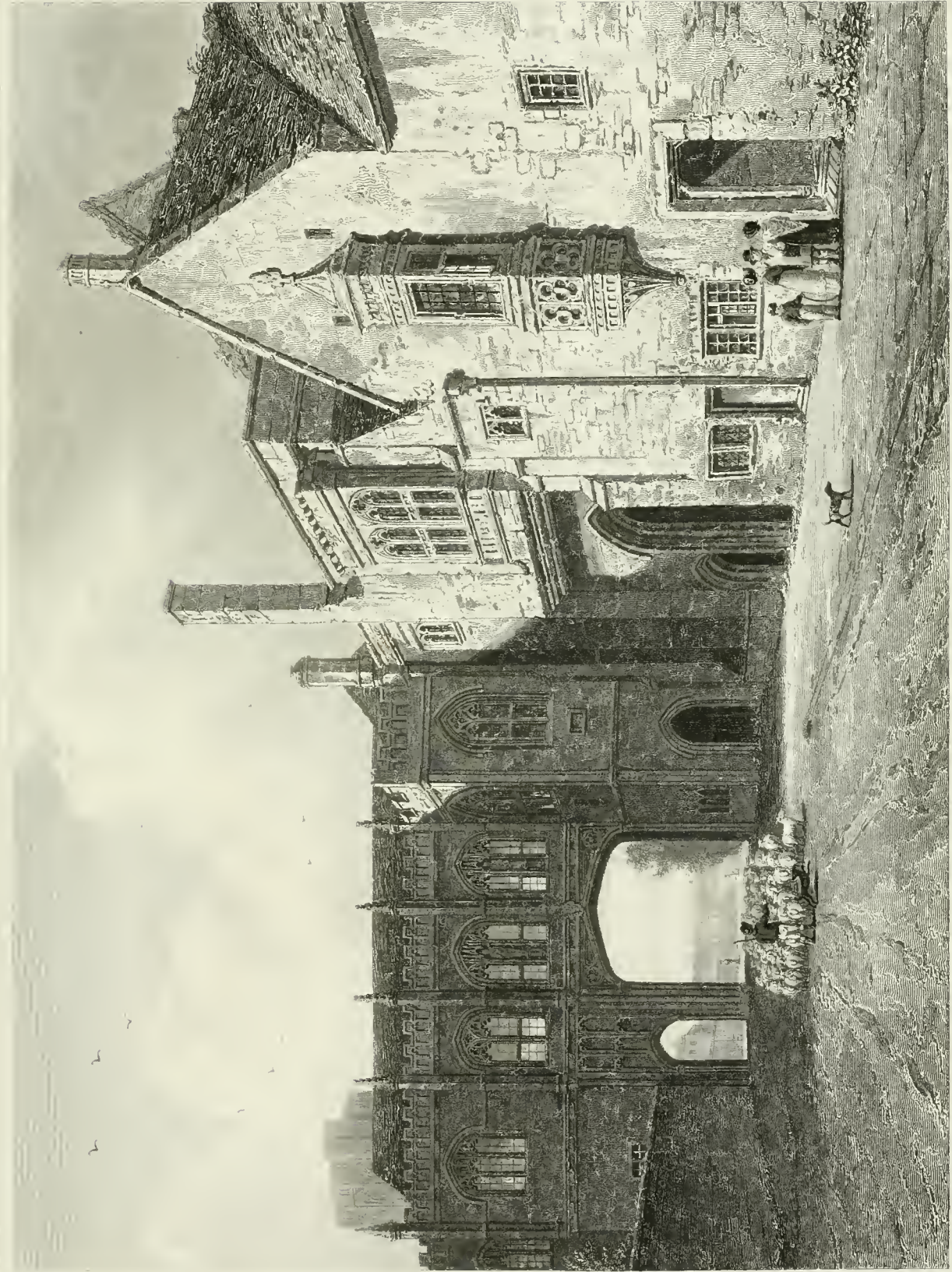
To the REV. WILLIAM HENRY TURNER M.A. PREBENDARY OF WELLS CATHEDRAL this plate is inscribed by the
 AUTHOR

London: Published Dec 1 1824, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row



FIGURES 1-19

IN THE WEST FRONT



Castellum dclv

THE GREAT HALL OF THE CASTLE OF
 THE BISHOP OF WINDSOR, AS IT APPEARS IN AN ENGRAVING
 BY JAMES WATSON, ESQ. IN THE YEAR 1788. THE CASTLE WAS
 BUILT BY HENRY II. KING OF ENGLAND, IN THE YEAR 1154.



H Shaw del.

Le Roux sc.

WELLS CATHEDRAL

TWELVE DIFFERENT CAPITALS

FROM THE DRAWINGS OF MR. H. SHAW DEL. BY MR. LE ROUX SCULPTOR.

London, Published May 27 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

ACCOUNT OF MONUMENTS OF THE BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS:

ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

AT this distance of time, and after the removals which must have taken place during the successive restorations of the Cathedral, it is impossible, perhaps, to affix to the antient mutilated *Effigies* which still remain here the true names of the Prelates whom they were intended to represent. Tradition is a very imperfect guide, and though useful on many occasions to corroborate written documents, it must not be suffered to influence the belief at the expense of the judgment. Names have been assigned to several of these figures, yet certainly without either considering the character of the sculpture, or the era to which they refer. Thus, three in the north aisle of the choir, on the stone seat at the back of the stalls, are said to be those of *Brithelm*, *Kinewald*, and *Alwyn*; the first of whom died in 973; the second in 975; and the last in 1000: yet from the style of costume, and other circumstances, it may be inferred that scarcely one of them is anterior to the Norman times. Leland says, "In boreali insula juxta Chorum. Quatuor tumuli et imagines Episcoporum Wellen. quæ referunt magnam vetustatem¹:" but he has not attempted to name them. The fourth, on the same side, is said to be *Bishop Giso*, who died in 1088; and Bishop Godwin inclines to that opinion: yet there is reason to doubt its correctness, for the effigy has only a priest's cap, and no mitre; the right hand is upraised, as in the act of giving the benediction. One of the other figures also wears a cap, and is similarly represented. The remaining Effigies, both which have mitres and wreathed staves, or crosiers, are habited in *pontificalibus*, and have their hands crossed.

In the south aisle of the choir, in nearly similar situations to the above, there are three other Episcopal effigies of remote date: these also have been

¹ "Itinerary," vol. iii. p. 107: edit. 1744.

mentioned by Leland, but without any appropriation, except the one towards the west; on which, he says, the word *Burwoldus* is inscribed. That Prelate died about the year 1000. The figure thus referred to, is represented with his hands lying flat across his body, a plain staff knobbed at top, but not crooked, and the strings of his mitre spread over his shoulders, so as to form a kind of arch or pediment. The two other figures are said to be those of the rival Bishops, *Ethelwyn* and *Brithwyn*, both of whom died in the year 1026. Gough, alluding, as it appears, to all the above effigies, states, that they are said to have come from Glastonbury²; but the correctness of such a report is very questionable; for we know only of one Bishop of this See who was buried at Glastonbury, viz. Merehwit, in 1033: and Leland, expressly referring to these effigies, calls them Bishops of Wells. The easternmost, or that of Brithwyn, as commonly designated, is a very boldly sculptured figure, of Purbeck marble, upon a plain tomb, thickly coated with a yellow wash. His arms are placed across his body; his crosier is surmounted by rich scroll-like foliage; and foliage, similarly rich, ornaments the recess in which his head appears to repose.

Bishop *Joceline* (ob. 1242) was buried in the middle of the choir, under a marble tomb inlaid with his figure in *brass*³; but the latter had been torn away in Godwin's time, and the tomb "shamefully defaced." So little respect, indeed, have the successive conservators of this fabric shewn to the memory of one to whom they are so much indebted, that they have suffered his monument to be utterly destroyed.

It has been already stated, on the authority of the Canon of Wells, that *Bishop Bitton*, or *Button*, the first of that name (ob. 1264) was interred in the Lady Chapel; and Bishop Godwin says, "He lieth buried in the middle" of that chapel "under a marble tombe⁴." Leland says, "*Guil. Bitton*, primus

² "Sepulchral Monuments," vol. i. part ii. p. 197.

³ Leland says, "Jocelinus sepultus in medio Chori Ecel. Wellen. tumba alta cum imag. ærea."—"Itinerary," vol. iii. p. 107.

⁴ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 368.

episcopus," &c. "jacet cum imagine ærea in capella D. *Mariæ* ad orientalem partem ecclesiæ de Welles⁵." From this honourable place of sepulture it may be inferred that Bitton had been chiefly concerned in the erection of the Lady Chapel; but there is no documentary evidence to substantiate the fact. His tomb has been since removed, but to what part is questionable. Had not Leland stated his image to have been of *brass*, we might have conceived his tomb to be now standing near the wall on the north side of St. Catherine's Chapel; which, with the opposite Chapel of St. John, the Evangelist, forms a kind of lesser transept to this Cathedral. Each side of the tomb is divided by small graduated buttresses into six compartments, displaying as many trefoil-headed ogee arches, terminating in finials; and at each end is a similar arch: in every spandril is a shield of arms. On a Purbeck slab, covering the tomb, is a recumbent effigy of the Bishop, much mutilated; the hands being broken off, crosier destroyed, &c.: his head rests upon a cushion, diapered; and his feet against a lion. The drapery is apparently thin; but the folds are disposed in a broad and simple style. The whole figure has been painted in colours, as was customary in former times⁶.

The monument of *Bishop Bitton*, the second, is situated at the back of the choir, between the second and third columns from the west. It merely consists of a coffin-shaped marble slab, on which is an engraved episcopal figure, *in pontificalibus*; the right hand is in the act of giving the benediction; small angels, with censers, are depicted in the spandrils. Leland, in describing the figures in the south aisle of the choir, says, "Quartus est *Gulielmi Bytton*, qui obiit. Novem. 1274. 2. E. 1. quem vulgus nuper pro sancto coluit." Godwin also assigns this figure to the same Prelate; and particularly mentions the long continued resort of the superstitious to his tomb for the cure of tooth-ache.

Bishop *William de Marchia*, who died in June, 1302, was buried in the

⁵ "Itinerary," vol. iii. p. 108.

⁶ This tomb is represented in Plate xvii. on the right of the print; adjoining to which also is represented the upper end of another antient tomb, now standing in the south aisle of the choir.

south transept, where his effigy lies on a low pedestal, beneath a recessed arch in the south wall. His head rests on a double cushion, supported by angels; and at his feet is a cropped-eared dog: his right hand is raised, as blessing; and his left holds a crosier. On the wall, above his head, is the mask of a man, boldly sculptured, with curled hair, beard, and mustachios; probably intended for the Saviour: a female head, with similar hair, probably of the Virgin, is inserted in the wall at his feet. Ornamental groins and tracery spread over the soffite of the arch; and at the back, on brackets of foliage, are three figures, now headless and otherwise mutilated; two of which represent angels, and the third a female. On the face of the pedestal, under the verge of the tomb, are six masks of different character and aspect; four of them appear old, and are bearded; one represents a young man; and another a nun. The front of the monument is formed by open screen-work, in three compartments, separated by graduated buttresses, which stand on a plain projecting basement. Each buttress is enriched with pinnacles, &c., and between them rise three pointed arches, having pendent tracery, and pyramidal heads adorned with crockets and finials composed of rich foliage.

Bishop *Haselshawe*, who died in 1308, was buried in the nave, beneath a large slab, which still remains, and measures sixteen feet in length, by six feet in width. It lies near Bishop Bubwith's Chapel, and has been richly inlaid with brasses; but all are gone: the episcopal figure, in brass, was ten feet in length. Some indistinct traces of an inscription are apparent on the verge of the slab.

At a little distance from the last gravestone, in the middle of the nave, is an antient slab, which has been ascribed to *King Ina*, the reputed founder of the original Church of Wells. That sovereign, however, having been shorn a monk, died in privacy at Rome, together with Ethelburga, his queen, between the years 725 and 740; and we have no account of his remains ever having been brought to England.

Bishop *Drokensford*, says Leland, was interred at the south-west end of St. John's Chapel: but Godwin states that he "lieth buried under a

reasonable seemly toombe of free stone in the chappell of S. Katherine⁷. The Canon of Wells says, "before the altar of St. John the Baptist;" which was probably the fact, as Bishop Drokensford had founded a chantry there. This Prelate died in 1329; and is commemorated by an elegant *Monumental Shrine*, which stands near the south side of the Lady Chapel. It consists of an altar tomb, surmounted by a lofty canopy, supported by eight clustered buttresses: these sustain eight intermediate arched pediments, highly wrought with trefoils, quatrefoils, crockets, finials, and other ornaments. At the east end is a niche, having a two-fold canopy, enriched with numerous fleurs de lis, in gold, on a blue ground. There is no appearance of either brass effigy or inscription on this monument⁸.

In the north aisle, close to the second column from the east at the back of the choir, is the tomb of Bishop *Ralph de Salopia*, who died in 1363. This is said to have originally stood in the middle of the presbytery, before the high altar; but it was removed to its present situation about two hundred and seventy or two hundred and eighty years ago; because, says Leland, it obstructed the priests in their ministrations⁹. Godwin states, "that it lost its grates by the way." He adds also, from the records of the Church, that the figure recumbent upon the tomb (the work of some able artist) expressed in "a very lively manner" the animated countenance of his person when living¹⁰. His effigy, which is of alabaster, was finely sculptured, but it is now much defaced with lettorial incisions made by mischievous boys. He is pontifically habited, and has a rich mitre and gloves, ornamented with jewelery; his hands are closed, as in prayer: the top of the crosier is broken

⁷ "Catalogue of English Bishops," p. 370. "Postquam annos sedisset novendecim defunctus, tumulo infertur specioso in Capella sanctæ Catharinæ," &c. are the words used by the same writer in his "De Præsulibus," p. 376.

⁸ A representation of the above monumental shrine is included in Plate xvii.

⁹ "Itinerary," vol. iii. *ut supra*.

¹⁰ "Imago tumulo superincumbens (egregii alicujus artificis opus) vivos viventis vultus vividissime exprimit, ut in archivis Ecclesiæ scriptum reperi."—"De Præsulibus," p. 377.

off. His head reposes on two embroidered cushions, and at his feet are two dogs, collared. The verge of the tomb is embattled.

Bishop *Harewell*, (ob. 1386,) was interred in the south aisle of the choir. His tomb, which is a plain pedestal on a basement step, is let into the south wall, nearly opposite to that assigned to *Burwold*. His effigy has been richly ornamented, but is now much defaced and broken: the head rests on two cushions; his mitre is curiously decorated, and his robe wreathed round his crosier, the head of which is gone. *Godwin*, who regards this figure, which is of alabaster, as the performance of an excellent sculptor, states that it represents the deceased as of a very fat and large form¹¹.

Bishop *Erghum*, ob. 1400, was buried in the nave: his gravestone, which lies on the west side of the chapel erected by Bishop *Beckington*'s executor, has been inlaid with a brass episcopal figure, and two shields, as may be traced by the indents.

On the north side of the nave, beneath the second arch from the transept, is the monumental chapel of Bishop *Bubwith*, who was interred there in 1424. This elegant little structure was erected by himself, and endowed for the support of a chantry priest to pray for his soul. In the upright it consists of two divisions of panelled arches, surmounted by a cornice ornamented with trailing vine branches, and other sculpture. The tracery of the upper division is divided into many parts; and on each side, and over the two doorways, which open to the north and south, it is finely pierced. At the east end, in the inside, are various niches with rich canopies, now greatly mutilated; and at the west end is a shield of arms, viz. that of the See, impaling *Bubwith*, the latter a fess, engrailed, between three groups of conjoined holly leaves, four in each.

On the south side of the choir, contiguous to the steps leading to the altar, is the monumental chapel erected by Bishop *Beckington*, who died in 1465, and near which he lies buried. This is designed in the most florid style of decorated architecture; and although partly of wood, excites great interest

¹¹ "De Præsulibus," p. 377.

from the excellence of its execution and the elaborate manner in which it is wrought. The western side is entirely open, with the exception of a compartment of rich screen-work near the top; which, among other ornaments, exhibits two demi-angels displaying shields of the five wounds, and having large expanded wings, the feathers of which are so profusely spread as to fill the spandrils below the cornice. All the canopy, or roof, is underwrought with elaborate tracery, including pendants, quatrefoils, panelled arches, &c. On the south side is a small piscina, and over the eastern end is an enriched canopy. Small graduated buttresses, having rich pinnacles, sustain the sides of the chapel; and the mouldings of the cornice are ornamented with rosettes and fructed vine branches.

The tomb of Bishop Beckington, which, like the chapel, is partly of wood, is extremely curious. It is raised on a basement step, and consists of two divisions; viz. 1st, a table slab, whereon is a recumbent figure of the Bishop, in alabaster, habited in the same way as he had appointed to be buried¹²; and 2d, a low pedestal beneath the former, on which is another effigy of the deceased, in freestone, represented as an emaciated corpse extended on a winding-sheet. This kind of contrasted exhibition of the human figure, intended to denote the awful change which disease and death occasions, and thus convey a moral lesson to human vanity, was not uncommon in our cathedrals about the middle of the fifteenth century. The Bishop's garments, mitre, maniple, &c. have been richly gilt and painted; and the borderings, and other parts, have been depicted as inlaid, or set with precious stones: his head is reposing on two cushions, tasseled. The slab is supported by six small columns, three on each side, having low trefoil-headed arches between them, forming a sort of canopy over the emaciated figure; and the spandrils of which are almost wholly filled by the luxuriant plumage of demi-angels, which rest with outspreading wings on the shafts of the columns: these shafts were originally adorned with panelled arches and pinnacles, but much of the old work has been broken away, and its place supplied by plain wood.

¹² Godwin, "De Præsulibus," p. 382, note *f*.

On the south side of the nave, immediately opposite to Bishop Bubwith's chapel, is another very beautiful chantry chapel, by some called Bishop Beckington's, and by others Bishop Knight's, but inaccurate as to both; for Godwin expressly states that it was erected by *Hugh Sugar*, LL.D. Treasurer of Wells (who was one of Beckington's executors), entirely of free-stone, in place of a chapel of wood that previously stood there¹³. This, like Bubwith's, is a sexangular structure, and not dissimilar in its general design; but the tracery of the upper division is more elaborate, and the frieze and crowning ornaments more richly sculptured: the east end, or altar part of the interior, is likewise far more sumptuously profuse in its sculptural decorations than that chapel. Attached to the frieze, both on the north and south, are six demi-angels sustaining shields, charged, among other bearings, with the symbols of the five wounds, a cypher or monogram of the builder's initials, viz. H. S., his arms, viz. three sugar-loaves, surmounted by a doctor's cap. The same cypher and arms are repeated on shields, within quatrefoils and circles, under the canopy in the interior. The eastern façade, above where the altar stood, displays a most elegant series of five niches, separated by clustered buttresses, and crowned by highly enriched turreted canopies, the soffites of which are elegantly groined in divers forms: the pedestals, which are wrought in a corresponding manner, are adorned with foliage. All the eastern part from the doorways is surmounted by a most splendid canopy, or vault, of stone, overspread with fanlike tracery, a rich central pendant, quatrefoils in circles, and a profusion of other forms and ornaments.

Adjoining to the above chapel, against the great column on the western side, is a *Stone pulpit*, erected in Henry the Eighth's reign by Bishop *Knight*, who died in 1547; and which, says Godwin, "hee caused to be built for his tombe." It consists of a basement, and a superstructure fronted with pilasters, panelled, surmounted by an entablature; on the frieze of which is

¹³ Hugo Sugar, &c. "legum Doctor, qui Capellam elegantem ex polito lapide suis sumptibus construxit, magno pulpito contiguam, ubi loci lignea jam olim fuerat posita."—"De Præsulibus," p. 381. The great pulpit here mentioned was built by Bishop Knight seventy or eighty years subsequently to the erection of the chapel.

the following inscription in Roman capitals:—PREACHE THOU THE WORDE. BE FERVENT IN SEASON AND OVT OF SEASON. REPROVE, REBVKE, EXHORT, IN ALL LONGE SVFFERYNG & DOCTRYNE. 2 TIMO. In front are the Bishop's arms.

Bishop *Berkeley*, ob. 1581, is commemorated by an altar tomb on the north side of St. John's Chapel; to which place it was removed from the choir to make room for the monument of Bishop Kidder. In front are three panels, in which, on octo-foils, are shields of arms displaying those of the See impaled with Berkeley's.

On the south side of the choir, between the two easternmost columns, is the monument of Bishop *Still*, ob. 1607; which exhibits all the ponderous heaviness of James the First's time. The deceased is represented by a recumbent figure, in parliamentary robes, on a large sarcophagus, beneath an entablature and semicircular-arched canopy, which is supported by two Corinthian columns. His head reposes on two embroidered cushions, tasseled; and his hands are raised as in prayer: he has a long beard, and a large ruff, plaited. At the back of the arch is an inscription to the Bishop's memory; and in the spandrils are the arms of his See and family, on separate shields. The same arms, impaled in one shield, surmount the central part of the entablature.

Bishop *Lake* was buried in the south aisle of the choir, near the back of the Bishop's throne; where his memory is recorded by his arms, sculptured in stone, and a brief inscription on a brass plate. He died in 1626.

In St. John's Chapel, on the eastern side, is the ponderous marble tomb and effigy of Bishop *Creighton*, who died in 1672. In front of the pedestal are three shields, displaying the arms of the deceased, of the See of Wells, and of the latter combined with those of Bath Abbey. An inscribed tablet (principally relating to his exile), and an elliptical pediment, fronted by a shield of the arms of the See impaling Creighton, surmounted by a mitre, completes the design.

Between the easternmost columns, on the north side of the choir, is the lofty monument of Bishop *Kidder* and his lady, who were killed in the great storm of November 26, 1703. This was erected by their surviving daughter,

who is represented, by an elaborate figure, reclining on a slab, and looking at two urns supposed to contain the ashes of her ill-fated parents. At the sides are two Corinthian columns, supporting an entablature and open pediment, crowned with flaming lamps and a lozenge shield of the family arms. Beneath the entablature is expanded drapery, with cherubim in basso-relievo.

Against the south wall of the south aisle is a lofty monument of marble, with a long inscription on a tablet between two Corinthian columns supporting an entablature and pediment, in commemoration of Bishop *Hooper*, who died in 1727. At the sides, above the pedestal, are youthful Genii; and over the entablature are the arms of the See, impaling Hooper.

In the south transept is the dilapidated monument of *Joan, Viscountess Lisle*, a daughter and heiress of Thomas Chedder, Esq. and widow of John Viscount Lisle, who died on the 13th of July, 1464. It consists of a low tomb, under an elevated recessed ogee arch, flanked by buttresses, and ornamented with rich crockets and finials. An embattled cornice, with pierced work in panels, terminates the design. At the back of the arch are three niches, with enriched pinnacles, &c. which were brought to light in 1809, by the taking down of a wall with which the recess had been partially filled up, and which was partly formed of broken fragments of the effigy of the Viscountess.

In St. Martin's Chapel, in the south transept, is the architectural monument of *John Storthwait*, who was Precentor of Wells in 1426, and Chancellor in 1439: he died about 1454. The basement is ornamented with panelled arches and small buttresses; upon which, within an enriched canopied recess, lies a figure of the deceased, with his hands as in prayer. The upper part consists of a panelling of trefoil-headed arches, pinnacles, and other sculpture.

In the adjoining Chapel, which is dedicated to St. Kalixtus, and now used as the canons' vestry, is the elegant though mutilated monument of Dean *Henry Husèe*, who died in the year 1305. It is composed of alabaster; and consists of a recumbent figure of the Dean, on a basement tomb, beneath a

recessed arch, surmounted by a rich but broken canopy. The front of the tomb is divided by small buttresses into nine compartments; five of which include as many headless figures of ecclesiastics, and the others shields of arms: the verge is embattled. Pendent tracery ornaments the lower part of the arch; in the spandrils are quatrefoils, &c., and above the arch is a series of trefoil-headed niches, with pinnacles, a cornice, and a crowning ornament of trefoils.

At the northern extremity of the north transept is an altar tomb, with a canopy, to the memory of *Thomas Cornish*, Precentor, Chancellor and Canon Residentiary of this Cathedral, who died in 1513. He was Suffragan Bishop to this Cathedral under Fox, and of Exeter to Hugh Oldam. He was also Provost of Oriel College, Oxford. (See *Athenæ Oxon.* vol. ii. p. 698.) An elevation of this simple but handsome monument is given in the engraved title page to this volume.

In St. John's Chapel, at the north end of the eastern transept, is an altar tomb, sustaining a recumbent effigy of a priest, said to perpetuate *Dean Forest*, who died in March 1446. Near it are some marble tablets to the memory of different branches of the *Brydges* family.

In the Lady Chapel are tablets recording the names and qualifications of the Rev. *Thomas Eyre*, Treasurer of this Cathedral, and of other persons of his family.

On the wall of the north aisle, near the entrance, is a marble slab commemorating *Thomas Linley*, Esq. who died Nov. 19, 1795; and also two of his daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth Ann, was wife of R. B. Sheridan, Esq. A pathetic poetical epitaph, by William Linley, son of the above Thomas, is inscribed on the tablet.

Attached to the wall behind the altar is a tablet raised to the memory of Lord *Francis Seymour*, son of Edward, Duke of Somerset, who died in February, 1799, aged seventy-three, after presiding in this church as Dean for thirty-three years.

John Harris, D. D. Bishop of Landaff, and Dean of this Church, is commemorated by another marble slab affixed to the same wall. He died in August, 1738.

In St. Catharine's Chapel are monumental memorials of the *Sherston* family; and also a curious emblematical *brass* plate, in memory of *Humphry Willis*, Esq. who died in 1618.

Attached to one of the clerestory windows on the south side of the nave is a small *Minstrel Gallery*, having its front divided into three panels, with quatrefoil tracery, inclosing blank shields. On the south side of the nave, over the arches, are two large busts of a Bishop and a King, with small figures attached to each: these have been already noticed, pp. 60, 61, note 7, and are represented in Plate II. figures 4 and 5. In the north transept is a curious, antient, and complicated *Clock*, which is traditionally said to have been executed by Peter Lightfoot, a monk of Glastonbury, about the year 1325. Its circular dial represents the hours of the day and night, the phases of the moon, and other astronomical signs; and at the summit is a piece of machinery with figures of knights on horseback, or cavalry, which revolve round a centre at the time of striking the hours. At one angle of the transept is a statue of a seated man, which is connected with the clock by rods, and strikes the hours and quarters with his foot against a bell. This figure, without any intention of punning, is popularly called Peter *Lightfoot*.

Among the fanciful, amusing, and interesting features of this truly interesting Church, the numerous and diversified *Capitals* to the columns demand particular notice. They abound with rich and varied sculpture, and shew that the artist who designed and the artizan who executed them worked in co-operation and with one feeling. Though all are restricted to given proportions and general forms, and each is adapted to its particular office, yet they all vary from one another, and each is distinguished by its own individual beauty and originality. Nineteen of these capitals are delineated in Plates XIII. and XXII. Those in the former are 1 and 3, against the wall on the north side of the nave; 4, cluster to great pier on the south side of the nave; 2 and 6, clusters in vestibule to the Lady Chapel; 5 and 7, under north-west tower. Plate XXII. 1, commencing at the left hand corner, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, are portions of capitals from the south transept; 2 and 3, from the north aisle of the nave; 10 and 12, from the north porch; and 9 and 11, from the north transept.

Detached from, but associated in history and architectural characteristics with the Cathedral, are the Palace, the Deanery, the Vicar's Close, or College, and some gatehouses, &c. in the market place. The *Palace*, a short distance south of the Cathedral, is a large irregular pile of building, surrounded by an embattled lofty wall, and that again guarded by a wide moat, filled with water. Over this, on the north side, is a bridge, with an embattled gatehouse, on the palace side. The area within the walls is said to embrace nearly seven acres of land, occupied by a court-yard and lawns, kitchen and pleasure gardens, the offices and the dwelling house. The latter, it is reported, contains some antient specimens of architecture. On the south side of the outer court, or ballium, as it may be named, are the walls of a grand and spacious hall, which was about one hundred and twenty feet in length, by seventy feet in width, and was built by Bishop Burnell, in the reign of Edward I. It was enlightened by tall and finely formed windows; had a music gallery at one end, and staircase turrets at the angles. Near it are the remains of a once beautiful chapel, supposed to have been built by Joceline de Wells. Bishop Erghum fortified, enlarged, and strengthened this Palace during his prelacy, and made it a complete fortress. Within fifty years afterwards it was greatly dilapidated; as Bishop Beckington found it necessary to repair it and add to its accommodations. By the great Duke of Somerset (uncle to Edward VI.) it suffered much waste and injury; and still further destruction by a despicable fanatic, named Burgess, during the Civil War in Charles the First's time. These things considered, and the comparatively small income of the See, we are surprised to find the Palace possess so much antiquarian interest, and to hear that it affords so much domestic comfort and accommodation.

At a short distance north-west of the Cathedral is the *Deanery House*, a large and commodious mansion. The building is nearly square, with a court yard to the east, gardens and offices to the north, and abutting on the south to the road. The oldest part of the present building appears to be of Gunthorpe's time, who was elected Dean in 1472, and is said to have entertained Henry the Seventh here on his return from the west. In the hall is

an antient sculptured fire-place, and on the garden side are some fine oriel windows.

Directly north of the Cathedral is a series of tenements, with chapel, hall, &c. surrounding a long area, called the *Vicar's College*, or *Close*. Bishop Salopia appears to have been the chief founder of this college, and builder of the houses, &c. The collegiate establishment consists of two principals, five seniors, and seven other vicars. The buildings comprise twenty houses on each side of the court, or close, a chapel with a library in a ruinous state, at the north end, and a common hall, with its appendages, at the opposite end. The buildings, as well as the funds of this College, are under great obligations to Bishop Beckington. In PLATE XX. the entrance gateway to the Vicar's Close, including the archway and gallery of communication with the Cathedral, together with a beautiful oriel window, and other contiguous objects, are distinctly represented.

A Chronological List of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, WITH THE CONTEMPORARY KINGS OF ENGLAND.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Kings.
OF WELLS.					
Anglo-Saxon Dynasty.					
1	Athelmus, nr Adelm.....	Circa.....905 nr 909	To Canterbury.....923	Canterbury.....	Edward the Elder.
2	Wulfhelm, or Wlfelms.....	.....924	Ditto.....925	Canterbury..... 938	Athelstan.
3	Elphege, or Elfege.....	Circa.....925	.....	.....	Athelstan.
4	Wulfhelm, Wlfelms, or } Wolfehm.....	Occurs ¹.....938	.....	.....	Edmund and Eldred.
5	Brithelm, or Brihtelm ².....	.....958	Died.....May 15, 973	Wells.....	Edwy and Edgar.
6	Kyneward, or Kinewald.....	.....974	.....July 8, 975	Wells.....	Edgar, &c.
7	Sigar.....	Circa.....975	.....June 8, 997	.....	Ethelred.
8	Alwyn, Adelwyn, Alfwin, } or Ealwyn.....	Circa.....997	.....1000	Wells.....	Ethelred.
9	Burwold.....	.....1000	Circa.....1000	Wells.....	Ethelred.
10	Leovingus, Living, El- } stan, or Elstanus.....	.....1001	To Canterbury.....1013	Canterbury.... 1019	Ethelred.
11	Ethelwyn, or Agelwinus, } supplanted by.....	.....1013	.....	.....	Edmund and Canute.
12	Brithwyn, who was eject- } ed, in turn, by the same } Ethelwyn.....	Circa.....1021	Died.....1026	Wells.....	Canute.
		Circa.....1025	Died.....1026	Wells.....	Canute,
13	Merehwit, nr Merewhit.....	.....1027	Died.....1033	Glastonbury.....	Canute.
14	Dudoc, or Dudneus.....	.....1033	Died.....1060	Wells.....	Harold I. to Harold II.
Norman Dynasty.					
15	Giso, Gisa, or Giso Hasban	Consecrated..May 17, 1060	.....1088	Wells.....	William I.
OF BATH.					
16	John de Villula.....	.....1088	Died.....Dec. 1123	Bath.....	William II. Henry I.
17	Godfrey.....	Cons.....Aug. 26, 1123	Died.....Aug. 16, 1133	Bath.....	Henry I.
OF BATH AND WELLS.					
18	Robert ³.....	.....1135	Died.....Sept. 1, 1165 or 6	Bath.....	Stephen.
Saxon Line Restored.					
19	Reginald Fitz Joceline.....	Cons.....June 23, 1174	To Canterbury... Nov. 1191	Bath.....1191	Henry II.
OF BATH AND GLAS- TONBURY.					
20	Savaric.....	Cons.....Sept. 20, 1192	.....Aug. 8, 1205	Bath.....	Richard I.
21	Joceline de Welles.....	Cons.....May 28, 1206	Died.....Nov. 19, 1212	Wells.....	John.
OF BATH AND WELLS.					
22	Roger.....	Cons.....Sept. 11, 1244	Died.....Dec. 1247	Bath.....	Henry III.
23	Wm. Bitton, or Button.....	Cons.....July 14, 1248	Died.....April 3, 1261	Wells.....	Henry III.

¹ Le Neve says, in 942.

² He was translated, in 959, to Canterbury; but, upon the pretext of insufficiency, was in a short time removed back to Wells. Joh. Brompton, col. 864.

³ In his time the first Dean was chosen.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Kings.
24	Walter Giffard	Elected.....May 22, 1264	To York .....Oct. 15, 1265	York .....1279	Henry III. and Edw. I.
25	Wm. Bitton, or Button	Elect. ....Feb. 10, 1267-8	Died .....Dec. 4, 1274	Wells.....	Henry III. and Edw. I.
26	Robert Burnell.....	Cons.....April 7, 1274	Died.....Oct. 25, 1292	Wells.....	Edward I.
27	Wm. de Marchia, or De } la March	{ Elect. Jan. 30, 1293-94 } { Cons. ....May 17, 1291 }	Died..... June 11, 1302	Wells.....	Edward I.
28	Walter de Haselshawe, } or Hestelshagh.....	{ Elect.....Aug. 7, 1302 } { Cons. ....Nov. 4, 1302 }	Died..... Dec. 11, 1308	Wells.....	Edward I. and II.
29	John Drokensford	{ Elect.....Feb. 5, 1309 } { Cons. ....Nov. 9, 1309 }	Died .....May 13, 1329	Wells.....	Edward II. and III.
30	Ralph de Salopia	Cons. ....Dec. 3, 1329	Died .....Aug. 14, 1363	Wells.....	Edward III.
	Walter de Monyngton.....	Elected, but his Election made void.			
31	John Baret.....	{ From Worcester, Nov. 24, 1363 }	Trans. to Ely..Dec. 15, 1366	Ely.....1373	Edward III. Rich. II.
32	John Harewell, LL. B.	Cons.....March 7, 1366	.....June or July, 1386	Wells.....	Edward III. Rich. II.
	Richard Medeford.....	Elected July 1, 1386; but resigned before possession.			
Lancastrian Line.					
33	Walter Skirlawe, LL. D.	From Lichf. Aug. 18, 1386	To Durham....April 3, 1388	Durham .....1406	Rich. II. Hen. IV.
34	R. Erghun, LL. D.	From Sarum, April 3, 1388	Died.....April 11, 1400	Wells.....	Rich. II. Hen. IV.
	Richard Clifford	Advan. by Papal authority; but resign. before possession.			
35	Henry Bowet, LL. D.	Cons. ....Nov. 20, 1401	To York .....Oct. 7, 1407	York.....1423	Henry IV.
36	Nicholas Bubwith.....	From York....Oct. 7, 1407	.....Oct. 27, 1421	Wells.....	Henry IV. V. VI.
37	John Stafford, LL. D.	{ Elect.....Dec. 1421 } { Cons. ....May 27, 1425 }	To Canterb...Aug. 23, 1443	Canterbury....1452	Henry VI.
House of York.					
38	Tho. de Beckington, LL. D.	Cons.....Oct. 13, 1443	.....Jan. 14, 1461-5	Wells.....	Henry VI. Edw. IV.
	John Phreas, or Free.....	Advanced by Papal authority, in 1466; but died before possession.			
39	Rich. Stillington, LL. D.	Cons.....March 16, 1466	Died .....1491	Wells.....	{ Edw. IV. Rich. III. Henry VII.
Union of York and Lancastrian Families.					
40	Richard Fox, LL. D.	From Exeter...Feb. 8, 1492	{ To Durham.....1494 } { To Winchester...1502 }	Winchester ...1508	Henry VII.
41	Oliver King, LL. D.	{ From Exet. Nov. 6, 1495 } { Inst. ... March 12, 1496 }	Died.....Aug. 29, 1503	Bath, or Windsor...	Henry VII.
42	Card. Adrian de Castello...	{ From Heref. Aug. 1504 } { Inst. by proxy, Oct. 20, 1504 }	Deprived.....July 2, 1518	.....	Henry VII. and VIII.
Reformation.					
43	Card. Thomas Wolsey.....	.....Aug. 28, 1518	Resigned.....April, 1523	Leicester 1530	Henry VIII.
44	John Clarke, D. D.	Temporal rest. May 2, 1523	Died.....Jan. 3, 1540-41	Loodon.....	Henry VIII.
45	William Knight, LL. D.	Cons.....May 29, 1541	Died..... Sept. 29, 1547	Wells.....	Henry VIII. Edw. VI.
46	William Barlow, D. D.	St. David's...Feb. 3, 1547	Ejected .....1553	Chichester	Edward VI. and Mary.
47	Gilbert Bourne, D. D.	Cons.....April 1, 1554	Deprived.....1558	Silverton .....1569	Mary and Elizabeth.
48	Gilbert Berkeley, or Bark- } ley, S. T. P.	{ Elect.....Jan. 29, 1559 } { Cons. March 24, 1559 }	Died .....Nov. 2, 1581	Wells.....	Elizabeth.
49	Thomas Godwin, D. D.	{ Elect.....Aug. 10, 1584 } { Cons. ....Sept. 13, 1584 }	Died..... Nov. 19, 1590	Okingham	Elizabeth.
Union of English and Scotch Crowns.					
50	John Still, D. D.	Cons..... Feb. 11, 1592-93	Died.....Feb. 16, 1607	Wells.....	James I.
51	James Montague, D. D.	Cons.....April 17, 1608	To Winchester..Oct. 4, 1616	Bath 1618	James I.
52	Arthur Lake, D. D.	Elect..... Oct. 17, 1616	Died .....May 4, 1626	Wells.....	James I. Charles I.
53	William Laud, D. D.	From St. Dav. ..Sept. 19, 1626	{ To Lond. July 28, 1628 } { To Canterb. Aug. 1633 }	Oxford.....	Charles I.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Kings.
51	Leonard Mawe, D.D.....	Elect..... July 24, 1628	Died.....Sept. 3, 1629	Chiswick.....	Charles I.
55	Walter Curle, D.D.....	{ From Rochester, Elect.....Oct. 29, 1629 }	To Winchester.....1632	Subberton, Hants...	Charles I.
56	Wm. Pierce, or Piers, D.D.	{ From Peterborough... Nov. 26, 1632 }	Died.....April, 1670	Walthamstow	Charles II.
57	Robert Creighton, D.D.....	Elect.....May 25, 1670	Died.....Nov. 21, 1672	Wells.....	Charles II.
58	Peter Mew, LL.D.	Elect.....Dec. 19, 1672	To Winchest. Nov. 22, 1684	Winchester.....	Charles II.
59	Thomas Kenn, D. D.....	Cons..... Jan. 25, 1684-5	Deprived.....Feb. 1, 1690	Frome..... 1710	James II. William III.
60	Richard Kidder, D.D.....	Cons.....Aug. 30, 1691	Killed.....Nov. 27, 1703	Wells.....	William III. and Anne.
61	George Hooper, D.D.....	{ From St. Asaph, March 14, 1703-1 }	Died.....Sept. 6, 1727	Wells.....	{ Anne, George I. and II.
62	John Wynne, S. T. P.....	Ditto.....Nov. 11, 1727	Died.....July, 1743	.....	George II.
63	Edward Willes, D.D.	From St. David's... ..1743	Died.....Nov. 24, 1773	London.....	George II.
64	Charles Moss, D.D.....	Ditto.....1774	Died.....1802	London.....	George III.
65	Richard Beadon, D.D.....	From Gloucester.....1802	Died.....April 20, 1824	Wells.....	George IV.
66	Henry Law, D.D.....	From Chester.....1824	.....	.....	George IV.

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

OF THE

Bishops of Dorchester, Winchester, and Sherborne;

TO WHICH THE DIOCESS OF WELLS ORIGINALLY BELONGED.

No.	BISHOPS.	Elected or Consecrated.	Died or Translated.	Buried at	Saxon Kings.
OF DORCHESTER.					
1	Birinus	Circa .....635	.....650	{ Dorchester, after, (rem. to Winches.)	Cynegils, Kenwalsh.
2	Agelbert, or Egilbert .....	.....650	See divid. Abdicated ..660	.....	Kenwalsh.
3	Wina, Bishop of Dor- chester & Winchester }	.....661	{ Expelled.....664 }	Winchester	Kenwalsh.
4	Lothere, or Leutherius, } Bp. of the W. Saxons. }	.....670	Died.....674	Winchester	Kenwalsh.
OF WINCHESTER.					
1	Headda, or Hedda.....	.....676	Circa .....703	Winchester	Ina.
2	Daniel	Circa .....704	{ See again div. circa 706 } { Died.....745 }	.....	Ina, Ethelard.
OF SHERBORNE.					
1	Aldhelm	Circa .....706	Died .....709	.....	Ina.
2	Forthere, or Fordhere.....	.....709	Died circa.....737	.....	Ina, Ethelard.
3	Herewald	{ Present at a council 747 }	.....	.....	{ Ethelard, Cuthred.
4	Ethelmod.....	{ Confirms a charter ..766 }	.....	.....	{ Sigebert, Kinewulph.
5	Denefrith.....	.....	.....	.....	Kinewulph.
6	Wilbert, or Wigbert.....	Before.....812	.....	.....	Brithric.
7	Ealstan	Circa .....817	.....867	Sherborne.....	Egbert. { Egbert, Ethelwulph, Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred.
8	Edmund, or Headmund.....	.....867	Slain.....871	.....	Ethelred.
9	Etheleage.....	Circa .....872	.....	.....	Ethelred.
10	Alfsy, or Alfsius .....	.....	.....	.....	Alfred.
11	Asserius Menevensis.....	From Exeter	{ Probably resign. Died, accord. to Godwin, 883; } { Sax. Chron. says...910 }	Sherborne	{ Alfred, Edward the Elder.
12	Swithelm, or Sighelm.....	Godwin says .....883	.....	.....	Alfred.
13	Ethelwold, or Ethelward... [See vacant several years.]	.....	Died.....898	.....	Alfred.
14	Werstan.....	Circa .....905	Slain.....918	.....	Edward the Elder.

A Chronological List of the Deans of Wells.

No.	DEANS.	Appointed or admitted.	Died or removed.
1	Ivo ¹	Occurs 1135; and again 1159—Dugdale.	
2	Richard de Spokeston, or Spaxton.....	{ Occurs in 1160—Godwin; 1164—Reg. Dec. et Cap.; and 1174—Wharton.	
3	Alexander.....	{ Occurs 1180—Cart. Glaston, MS. p. 15; and 1209— Reg. Well.	
4	Leonius.....	{ Noticed 1213—Reg. Dec. et Cap.; 1215—Dug- dale; Godwin places him in 1205.	
5	Ralph de Lechlade.....	{ Dugdale says he was elected during the time of } Bishop Joceline.....	1213—Reg. Well.
6	Peter de Cicester ²	{ Attended as Dean in Bath Abbey at Synod, April } 4, 1220—Dugdale.....	Died 1237—Reg. Dec. et Capital.
7	William de Merton.....	Elected Sept. 19, 1237; Godwin says 1236.	
8	John Saraacen.....	{ Appointed by the Pope 1242—Dugdale; Godwin says 1241. He occurs 1252.	
9	Egidius de Bridport.....	Elected 1253.....	To Salisbury, 1256 ³ —Reg. Dec. et Cap.
10	Edward de la Knoll, or Cnoll.....	Sept. 1256—Reg. Dec. et Capital.....	Died Sept. 16, 1284—Ibid.
11	Thomas de Button.....	Nov. 15, 1284—Reg. Well.....	{ To See of Exeter, 1292—Rymer Fœd. vol. ii. p. 543.
12	William Barnell.....	1292.....	Died 1295—Reg. Wellen.
13	Walter de Haselshawe ⁴	Dec. 17, 1298.....	{ To this See, 1302—Reg. Wellen. See List of Bishops.
14	Henry Husêe, or Hose.....	1302.....	Died 1305—Reg. Wellen.
15	John de Godelegh ⁵	1305.....	Died Feb. 4, 1332.
16	Richard de Bury.....	Elect. by the Pope's Letters, Feb. 20, 1332—Dugdale..	{ To Durham, 1334—Reg. Wellen.; died before installation.
17	Wibert de Littleton, or } Wm. de Lyttleton.....	Elected April 22, 1334—Godwin and Le Neve.....	{ Not installed; he died before Aug. 31, 1355—Reg. Rad. de Salop.
18	Walter de London.....	Aug. 30, 1335.....	Died 1350—Reg. Wellen.
19	John de Carleton ⁶	1350.....	Died 1361—Reg. Wellen.
	William de Camel.....	Elected, but refused to act, 1361.	
20	Stephen de Pempell, or } Pympel.....	Nov. 3, 1361.....	{ Died Feb. 3, 1378-9; and was buried in the Cathedral before the altar of St. Stephen—Dugdale.
21	John Fordham ⁷	Feb. 22, 1378; Godwin says 1379.....	To Durham, 1381—Reg. Wellen.
22	Thomas de Sudbury, LL.D.	1381—Godwin.	
23	Nicholas Slake.....	Occurs 1396—Godwin.....	Removed 1401.
24	Henry Beaufort ⁸	1397—Reg. Braybroke Episc. Lond.	
25	Thomas Tuttebury.....	Nov. 26, 1401. Held it a short time.....	{ Not known whether he vacated by death or preferment—Dugdale.
26	Thomas Stanley.....	{ Sept. 20, 1403—according to Dugdale; but God- } win and Le Neve say 1401.....	Died March 11, 1409-10, Reg. Wellen.
27	Richard Courtney.....	May 26, 1410; Godwin says 1409.....	To Norwich, 1413—Reg. Wellen.
28	Thos. Karneke, or Karneka.....	1413—Le Neve; omitted by Godwin.....	Died Sept. 1413—Reg. Bobbewith.
29	Walter Medford, or Metford.....	Nov. 8, 1413—Reg. Bubbewith.....	Died 1423—Reg. Bubbewith.
30	John Stafford, LL.D.....	Sept. 9, 1423.....	{ To this See, May, 1425—Reg. Wellen. See previous list.
31	John Forrest.....	Nov. 19, 1425.....	Died Mar. 25, 1446, and bur. in the Cathedral.

1 Constituted Dean by Robert, Bishop of Bath. According to Le Neve and Dugdale, and in Reg. Drokensford, it is said that William, Archbishop of Canterbury, confirmed the ordination, 1135 or 6; yet Godwin places it about 1150.

2 In 1237 a chantry was founded for his soul, in the Cathedral, before the altar of St. Kalixtus.

3 See "History," &c. "of Salisbury Cathedral."

4 Godwin and Le Neve place his election in 1295; but Dugdale says the Deanery remained vacant from the death of Barnell till 1298.

5 He was a considerable benefactor to the fabric of his Church, inasmuch that, in 1330, the chapter of the Cathedral founded a chantry for two priests to pray for the good estate of his soul—Dugdale.

6 William de Camel was elected on the death of Carleton; but refused the appointment—Dugdale. He was Chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

7 He was elected by thirty-three Canons; but Robert Skelton, by virtue of the Pope's Letters, claimed the Deanery. Fordham, however, retained the office till he was advanced to the See of Durham. He was Prebendary of Lincoln, York, and Chichester, Keeper of the Privy Seal, and made Lord Treasurer by King Richard II. He was translated to Ely by Pope Urban VI. His remains repose in St. Mary's Chapel, Ely.

8 The Cardinal. Godwin omits this Dean. In Bowet's Register it is stated that, after Slake, the Deanery remained vacant till Nov. 11, 1401; when Tuttebury was appointed. Le Neve quotes Reg. Braybroke Episc. Lond. et Reg. Medeford. Episc. Sarum, to prove that Beaufort was Dean in 1397.

No.	DEANS.	Appointed or admitted.	Died or removed.
32	John de la Bere.....	Held it for a short time.—1417—Godwin.....	To St. David's—Godwin.
33	Nicholas Carent ⁹ , LL. D....	1448—Godwin.....	May 3, 1467—Reg. Wellen.
34	William Wytham, LL. D....	1467.....	{ July 16, 1472; buried in the Cathedral, } near Bishop Ralph de Salopia.
35	John Gunthorp, B. D. ¹⁰ ...	Elect. Dec. 18, 1472; conf. Jan. 19, 1473—Reg. Still.	Died June 25, 1498.
36	Wm. Cousyn or Cosyn.....	{ Elect. Dec. 25, 1498; conf. April 15, 1499; instal. } { by proxy, June 23, 1499; in person, June 8, 1502 }	Died 1525—Reg. King. Reg. Castell.
37	Thomas Winter ¹¹	March 26, 1526—Le Neve; 1525—Godwin.....	Resigned 1528.
38	Richard Wolman, or } Woolman, LL. D. }	1529—Le Neve.....	{ Died in 1537; and was buried in the clois- } ters of St. Stephen's Chapel, Westm.
39	T. Cromwell ¹² , Earl of Essex	1537; (prime minister to Henry VIII.).....	Beheaded in 1540.
40	Wm. Fitzjames, or Fitz- williams	1540.....	Resigned 1548—See Wood's "Fasti."
41	John Goodman ¹³	1548—Le Neve.....	Deprived 1550—Godwin.
42	William Turner, M. D. ¹⁴ ...	1550—Le Neve.....	Deprived 1553—Le Neve; but restored.
	John Goodman.....	Restored 1553.....	Deprived 1560.
	William Turner, M. D.	Restored 1560.....	{ Died July 7, 1568; and buried in St. } Olave's, Hart-street, London.
43	Robert Weston, LL. D. ¹⁵ ...	1570.....	{ Died May, 1573; buried in the Cathedral } of St. Patrick, Dublin.
44	Valentine Dale, B. C. L. ¹⁶ ...	1574.....	{ Died Nov. 17, 1589; buried in St. Gre- } gory's Church, near St. Paul's, Lond.
45	John Herbert.....	(Master of Requests); 1589.	
46	Benjamin Heydon, D. D....	1602.....	Died 1607.
47	Richard Meredith, B. D....	Nov. 21, 1607.....	{ Died Aug. 15, 1621; buried in the Ca- } thedral—Wood's "Fasti."
48	Ralph Barlow, D. D.....	Sept. 1621.....	{ Died July, 1631; buried in the Cathe- } dral. Precentor of Christ Ch. Coll.
49	George Warburton, D. D. ¹⁷	Aug. 25, 1631—Reg. Curle.....	Dec. 1640.
50	Walter Raleigh ¹⁸ , D. D....	Jan. 13, 1641.....	{ Died Oct. 10, 1646; bur. in the Cathedral } before the Dean's stall, in the choir.
51	Robert Creighton, D. D....	1660.....	See List of Bishops.
52	Ralph Bathurst, M. D. ¹⁹ ...	June 28, 1670—Le Neve.....	Died 1704; bur. in Trin. Coll. Chapel, Oxf.
53	Wm. Grahme, D. D.....	July 28, 1701.	
54	Math. Brailsford, D. D....	July 23, 1713.....	Died Dec. 13, 1733.
55	Isaac Madox, D. D.....	1733.....	{ To St. Asaph, 1736; to Worcester, } 1743—Dugdale.
56	John Harris, D. D. ²⁰	1736.....	Died Aug. 28, 1738; bur. in this Cathedral.
57	Sammel Creswick, D. D....	Nov. 6, 1739.....	Died Jan. 13, 1766.
58	Lord Francis Seymour ²¹ ...	Jan. 1766.....	Died Feb. 9, 1799; bur. in this Cathedral.
59	Geo. Wm. Lukin, LL. D. ²² ...	March 26, 1799.....	Died Nov. 27, 1812.
60	Hon. Hen. Rider, D. D....	Dec. 12, 1812.....	{ Advanced to Gloucester 1813; to Lich- } field and Coventry 1824.

⁹ Le Neve supposes that there was merely a contest between Bere and him for the election; but Godwin places him in 1448. Carent was chosen by fifty-two Canons; but the Pope in the meantime had bestowed the Deanery on La Bere, or Dalvere. The Bishop had confirmed Carent's election before the arrival of the Pope's bull.

¹⁰ Kennet, from the Reg. Wellen, says that, in 1467, he gave to the treasury of the Church a massive silver image of the Virgin, weighing one hundred and fifty-eight ounces. He was buried in the Cathedral, near Bishop Drokenesford.

¹¹ Winter was called the nephew, but is supposed to have been the son of Cardinal Wolsey. See Wood's "Fasti."

¹² At the close of the statute of attainder against him, a proviso was inserted that it should not be in any way prejudicial to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Deanery, or Dean and Chapter of Wells—MS. Harl. 7089.

¹³ Godwin does not notice the restorations of Goodman and Turner; but mentions only their first appointments; and places Weston's in 1566.

¹⁴ A native of Morpeth, Northumberland, and author of "An English Herbal," 1552.

¹⁵ He was Priocipal of Broadgate Hall, and Chancellor of Ireland.

¹⁶ Dale was of All Souls College, Oxford; Master of Requests; and Ambassador to France.

¹⁷ A native of Cheshire; Dean of Gloucester; Chaplain to James I.—Wood's "Fasti."

¹⁸ Son of Sir Carew Raleigh, of Dowton, Wiltshire; he was elder brother to Sir Walter Raleigh. He was taken prisoner on the surrender of Bridgewater, and confined in Ilchester gaol; thence removed to Banwell House, and afterwards to the Deanery at Wells, where he was murdered by his gaoler, who was tried for the same, but acquitted. Sir Simon Patrick published "Reliquiæ Raleighanae," 1679. After Raleigh the Deanery was vacant fourteen years.

¹⁹ He was member of Trinity College, Oxford; of which he was chosen President, Sept. 1664. In 1691 he was nominated to the See of Bristol; but refused the appointment. The chapel of his college he built "in an elegant manner," in which he was buried, in 1704, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. Bathurst is praised by some authors for his poetical talents.

²⁰ In commendam with the Bishoprick of Landaff.

²¹ Son of the Duke of Somerset.

²² Translated to Worcester; in the Cathedral of which city he is buried, and where a long epitaph commemorates his promotion and virtues.

List of Books, Essays, and Prints,

WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RELATING TO

WELLS CATHEDRAL;

ALSO,

A CATALOGUE OF ENGRAVED PORTRAITS OF ITS BISHOPS AND DEANS.

THIS LIST IS SUBJOINED TO GRATIFY THE BIBLIOGRAPHER, THE CRITICAL ANTIQUARY, AND THE ILLUSTRATOR; AS WELL AS TO SHEW, AT ONE VIEW, THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES WHENCE THE CONTENTS OF THE PRECEDING PAGES HAVE BEEN DERIVED, AND THE FULL TITLES OF THE WORKS REFERRED TO IN THE NOTES.

DIOCESS, SEE, AND CHURCH.

THE History and Antiquities of Wells Cathedral have been hitherto almost wholly neglected; and there is no published account that manifests either investigation or discrimination. Some gentleman, probably connected with the Church, has drawn up a manuscript account of it, intitled, "A History of the Cathedral Church," &c.; one copy of which was in the possession of the late Bishop, and another is the property of the Rev. W. Phelps: but it is a very slight and imperfect performance. The principal archives of the Dean and Chapter are said to have been destroyed; consequently there is little chance or opportunity of our attaining any very detailed history of the See and Cathedral. Thus circumstanced, the present work, which includes a concentration of the scattered evidence that has been preserved relating to the See and Church, may be regarded as the only one that pretends to originality of matter, with independence of manner and impartiality. Besides ocular examination and local information, its facts and data are chiefly derived from the following sources:—

Wharton, in "ANGLIA SACRA," Pars I. has published five tracts relative to the History of the See of Wells. The first of these is intitled "*Historia de Episcopis Bathoniensibus et Wellensibus, a prima Sedis fundatione ad an. 1423. Authore Canonico Wellensi.*" This memoir was edited from a MS. in the Cottonian Library, Vitell. E. 5. which comprises two distinct works, termed by Wharton *Historia Major* and *Historia Minor*, whence he has compiled a continued narrative. He states that there are copies of both Histories in a Chartulary belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Wells. To this tract is subjoined a *Continuation of the History of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, from 1423 to 1540*, drawn up by Wharton from various authorities.—The second piece is, "*Adami de Domersham Historia de contentione inter Episcopos Bathonienses et Monachos Glastonienses, ab an. 1192 ad 1290.*" This is taken from the same MS. with the preceding; and it is also included in the *History of Glastonbury*, MS. Cotton. Tiber. A. 5.—Next follow "*Successio Priorum Ecclesie Bathoniensis;*" and "*Successio Decanorum Ecclesie Wellensis;*" taken principally from the Registers of Wells. The second part of "Anglia Sacra" contains a short "*Life of Thomas de Beckinton, Bishop of Bath and Wells,*" extracted from a MS. in the Cottonian Library, Titus A. 24, intitled, "*Collocutiones VII. de Landibus Will. de Wyckham,*" written by Thomas Chaundler, Chancellor of Wells, and afterwards of York, who died in 1489.

In "CONCILIA MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ ET HIBERNIÆ, ab an. 446 ad 1717, a D. Wilkins," are to be found the following documents relating to the Bishopric of Bath and Wells:—Vol. i. p. 200, *Synodus a R. Edwardo Sen. congregata.*—p. 259, *Concilium Bathoniense: in quo Edgarus in regem consecratus est.*—p. 569, *Bulla Honorii III. Papæ de dissolutione unionis Bathon. et*

Glaston. ecclesiar.—p. 683, *Statutum Jocelini Episc. Bathon. pro reedificanda Eccles. S. Andree Well.*—Vol. ii. p. 89, *Literæ Archiep. Cant. Epi. Bath. et Well. suum constit. Vicarium.*—p. 94, *Archiep. Literæ Synod. Epo. B. et W. de subsidio terræ sanctæ a Rege ablato.*—p. 186, *Prioris Cant. Commissio de officialitate B. et W. Dioec. sede ibid. vacante.*—Ib. *Alia de eadem.*—p. 187, *Prior. Cant. Litera concessa B. et W. electo, de ejusd. confirmatione.*—Ib. *Alia de eadem.*—Ib. *Alia Dom. Regi de eadem.*—p. 188, *Alia Capitul. Bath. de eadem confirmatione Epi. electi.*—p. 194, *Prior. et Cap. Cant. Literæ de citatione Episcoporum. ad consecrationem Epi. B. et W.*—p. 195, *Prior. Cant. Literæ Episcopo London. pro consecratione electi B. et W.*—Ib. *Eidem de consecratione Epi. B. et W.*—Ib. *Commissio Prior. et Cap. Cant. pro consecratione Ep. Assaven. et B. et W.*—p. 196, *Literæ Prior. et Cap. Cant. Archidiacono Cant. pro inthronizatione ejusd.*—Ib. *Prior. Cant. Literæ Epo. B. et W. pro inthronizatione sua.*—Ib. *Ejusd. Literæ ne Archidiaconus Cant. inthronizet Epum. B. et W.*—p. 197, *Ejusd. Literæ R. Poucyn ut inthronizet Epum. B. et W.*—p. 551, *Mandatum Johan. de Drokenesford, Epi. B. et W. de relaxamine Academia Oxon. paupertate pressæ.*—p. 578, *Statutum Epi. Wellens. de Cancellarii Prælectionib. confirmat. per Clement. Papam Avin. 4 id. Jul. Pontif. 7.*—p. 670, *Literæ Archiep. Cant. Epo. B. et W. de literis regiis (Edw. III.) contra Archiep.*—p. 681, *Literæ Regis Radulpho Epo. B. et W.*—p. 711, *Ordinatio Radulphi de Salopia Epi. B. et W. de dieb. festis in sua Dioecesi observand.*—Ib. *Ordinatio ejusd. de Constitutionalibus synod. Will. de Button Epi. Well. confirmand.*—p. 727, *Mandatum Rad. de Salopia Epi. Well. ad denunciand. excommunicationes juxta auctoritatem concilii provinc.*—p. 735, *Constitutiones Rad. de Salopia Epi. B. et W.*—Vol. iii. p. 12, *Archiep. Cant. Mandat. Epo. B. et W. super injuriis illatis Epo. Sarum.*—p. 49, *Mandat. Rad. de Salopia Epi. B. et W. contra officium episcopale excrecentes.*—p. 596, *Mandat. Thomæ Epi. B. et W. ad inquirend. de miraculis fontis S. Johannis.*—Vol. iv. p. 414, *The Archbishop of Canterbury's Mandate and Commission for the Visitation of the Diocese of B. and W.*—p. 415, *Articles for the Cathedral Church of Wells.*—p. 425, *Suspensio ab Archiep. Cant. facta contra Decanum Wellens.*—p. 429, *Absolutio M. Hill procurat. B. et W.*

The new edition of DUGDALE'S "MONASTICON ANGLICANUM," vol. ii. p. 274—285, contains notices of the Cathedral and Diocese of Wells, with accounts of the Bishops, and a catalogue of the Deans, collected from Wharton's *Anglia Sacra*; Godwin de Præsulib. *Anglican*; Le Neve's *Fasti Eccles. Angl.*; Gough's *Sepulchral Monuments*; Collinson's *History of Somerset, &c.*—In the same work are the following charters and records relating to Wells:—No. I. *Carta Cynwulfi Regis. (Godwin).* No. II. *Carta Edwardi Reg. Confess. dicti.* (MS. Cott. Tiber. E. 8.) No. III. *Carta Edw. R. de Hlytton.* No. IV. *Carta Edw. R. alt.* No. V. *Carta Edw. R. tert.* No. VI. *Carta de Terra de Wedmore.* No. VII. *Carta Eadgithæ Edw. Conf. relictæ de Terra de Merke.* No. VIII. *Carta Harald Reg.* No. IX. *Altera Carta Edw. Reg.* No. X. *Altera Carta Eadgithæ Regina.* No. XI. *Carta Willielmi I. Reg. de Villa de Wynesham.* (No. 1—11, MS. Harl. 6968, ex Registr. Cartar. penes Decan. et Cap. Wellens. desump.) No. XII. *Prædia Eccles. Wellens. ex Lib. Cens. voc. Domesday Book, in Scaccar.* No. XIII. *Carta Jocelini de Tresminettes.* No. XIV. *Carta Reg. Stephani de Eccles. de Northcwi et de Perretona.* No. XV. *Carta Ricardi Reg. quod Bathon. Episcopi habeant Mineriam de Plumbo.* (No. 13—15, MS. Harl. 6968.) No. XVI. *Carta Ricardi I. Reg. Rain. Bathon. Episcopo ad fugand. per Com. Somerset.* (MS. Harl. 83, c. 10.) No. XVII. *Carta Henrici Abb. Glaston. de Eccles. de Pilton, qua donationem u Roberto Abb. Eccles. Wellensi factam, confirmat.* No. XVIII. *Carta Henrici Abb. qua Eccles. de Pilton Eccles. Wellensi concessit.* No. XIX. *Carta ejusd. de Eccles. de Suthbrente Archidiacono Wellens. concessa.* No. XX. *Carta Reginaldi Bathon. Epi. qua Donationes ab Henrico de Ecclesiis de Pilton et Suthbrent confirmat.* No. XXI. *Carta Sararici de Eccles. de Pilton concessa in usum communæ Wellens.* (No. 17—21, Regist. Wellens. I. vid. Adam. de Domersh. tom. i. a Hearne.) No. XXII. *Carta Reg. Johannis de patronatu Eccles. Glaston. Jocelino Epo. Bathon. et Glaston. concessa.* No. XXIII. *Confirmatio Reg. Johannis super Unione Eccles. Glaston. cum Eccles. Bathon.* (No. 22, 23, Regist. Wellens. III. vid. Ad. de Domersh. t. i.) No. XXIV. *Carta Jocelini Bathon. Epi. de Manerio et Ecclesia de Wyniscumbe, concessis in dotem Eccles. Wellens.* (Regist. Wellens. I.) No. XXV. *Statuta Jocelini Epi. Bathon. acta in Capitulo Wellens. 16 kal. Nov. 1242.* (MS. Harl. 1682, fol. 1.) No. XXVI. *Super privatione Adriani, de custodia Temporalium concessa.* (Rot. Pat. 10 Hen. 8. p. 2, m. 26. Rymer. Fœd. tom. xiii. p. 622.) No. XXVII. *Prima Ordinatio Decanatus Wellens.* (MS. Harl.

6964, p. 6, ex Reg. Johan. de Drokenesford Epi. B. et W. fol. 24.) No. XXVIII. *An Acte touching the Deane and Chapter of Welles, to be one sole Chapter of it selfe.* (Stat. 34, 35, Hen. 8. cap. 15, edit. Berthelet, Lond. 1551. fol.) No. XXIX. *De Scripto Epi. Bathon. irrotulato pro Dom. Rege.* (Rymer. Fœd. tom. xv. p. 171, a Rot. Claus. 2 Edw. 6. p. 4, n. 2.)—*Valor Ecclesiasticus Eccles. Cath. S. Andreae Wellens.* (Abstract of Return, 26 Hen. 8. First Fruits Office.)

In the "HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET," &c. By the Rev. John Collinson, F. A. S. Bath, 1791, 4to. vol. iii. is a catalogue, with short historical notices of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, from Godwin and other authorities; an account of the landed property belonging to the See; a list of the Dignitaries and Clergy of the Cathedral in 1791; and a description of the Church, with the principal monumental inscriptions.

"*A concise History of the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, in Wells;* to which is added, an Abridgement of the Lives of the Bishops and Deans of the Church; and a Catalogue of the Monuments and Antiquities contained in the same." By John Davis, Verger of the Cathedral. Shepton Mallet, 1814. 12mo. A new edition of this "Guide," with some additions, in 1822.

"*History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Church and See of Wells;*" forming the 23d Part of Storer's "*Graphic and Historical Descriptions of the Cathedrals of Great Britain.*" 1818. 8vo.

BISHOPS.

"*A Catalogue of the Bishops of England,* since the first planting of the Christian Religion in this Island; together with a briefe History of their Lives and memorable Actions, so neere as can be gathered out of Antiquity," &c. By Francis Godwin. Lond. 1615. 8vo. (Bishops of Bath and Wells, p. 357-387. List of Deans, p. 387, 8.)—This work was first published in a very imperfect state in 1601. A Latin translation by the author appeared in 1616: of which there is a much improved edition, with a continuation by Dr. W. Richardson. Cantab. 1743. Fol. under the following title—"De Præsulibus Angliæ, commentarius," &c. (The account of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, p. 363-394.)—Among the MS. authorities used by Dr. Richardson in preparing this work for the press, he refers to one which is thus described: "MS. in Bibliotheca Coll. S. Trin. Cantabrigiæ; complect. Episcoporum Bathonio-Wellensium historiam, sive historiæ totius tentamen, manu ipsius Godwini exaratum."

"*Fasti Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ;* or, an Essay towards deducing a regular Succession of all the principal Dignitaries in each Cathedral, &c. in England and Wales, from their first erection to the year 1715." By John Le Neve. 1716. Fol.—In this work will be found a list of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, of the Deans of Wells, and of the Precentors, Treasurers, and Chancellors, the Subdeans and Archdeacons of Wells, and the Archdeacons of Bath and Taunton. (See p. 31-47.)

Among the MSS. in the Library of R. Gough, F. A. S. are mentioned—"Extracts relating to the Bishops of Dorchester and Wells, and Abbots of Glastonbury;" folio: and "Catalogus Episcoporum Bathon. et Wellens. a F. Godwin, MS. Beaupre Bell, A. M." 4to.—In "*Historia Johannis de Trokelowe*" (p. 251, 378), published by Hearne, is an account of the canonization of Will. de Marchia, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

PRINTS.

In "A Plan of the City of Wells, by Wm. Simes," engraved by Toms, 1736, is a perspective Elevation of the South Side of the Cathedral.

A South West View of the Cathedral, a sort of bird's-eye representation, without sky or ground. *R. Newcourt* del.; *D. King* sc.

A larger Print of nearly the same View, with sky and ground; but without name or date.

An Elevation of the West Front. *R. Newcourt* del.; *D. King* sc.

In Carter's "Ancient Sculpture and Painting" are six engravings, representing the Statues of the West Front.

A bird's-eye View of the Cathedral, from the N. W. *T. Ford* del.; *Toms* sc. The arms of the See are held by Cupids in the sky; and a plan of the Church is engraved at one corner.

A South View of the Palace, &c. drawn and engraved by *S. and N. Buck*, 1733.

A N. W. View of the Cathedral, engraved in aquatint by *F. C. Lewis*, 1816, from a drawing by *J. Buckler*.

The same View is etched, in a reduced scale, by *J. C. Buckler*, for a quarto volume entitled "Views of the Cathedral Churches, &c." published by Nichols and Son, 1822.

The same View is again etched (small) by *Mills*, for Davies's Guide.

In Sir R. Hoare's "History," &c. "of Modern Wiltshire," Part I. is a View of *Bishop Still's Monument*. *J. Buckler* del.; *G. Hallis* sc.

A View of the *Nave* is published in "The Beauties of England;" engraved by *Roffe*, from a drawing by the Rev. *Thos. Streetfield*.

In Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments" is a View of *Lady Lisle's Monument* in this Cathedral: also two Views of the Statues and Tomb of *Bishop Beckington*.

ENGRAVED PORTRAITS OF THE BISHOPS OF BATH AND WELLS.

1. RICHARD FOX.—1. *Vertue* sc. 1723, from Johanues Corvus; in Fiddes' "Life of Cardinal Wolsey."—2. *G. Glover* sc.—3. *Sturt* sc.—4. *J. Faber* sc. large 4to. mezz.—5. A small oval, for Knight's "Life of Erasmus."
2. THOMAS WOLSEY.—1. *Faber* sc. from Holbein, 4to. mezz.; with the Label "Ego et meus Rex." 4to.—2. *Elstracke* sc. 4to.—3. *D. Loggan* sc.—4. In Holland's "Heroologia." 8vo.—5. *W. Marshall* sc. in Fuller's "Holy State."—5. *P. Fourdrinier* sc. half length, in Fiddes' "Life of Wolsey."—6. *Houbraken* sc. in Birch's "Lives of Illust. Persons."—7. *Des Rochers* sc. 4to.—8. *Vertue* sc. small oval, inscribed C. W.—9. *De Larmessin* sc.—10. *Sheppard* sc. folio.—11. *R. White* sc. folio.
3. JOHN STILL.—*J. Jones* sc. 1789, from a Portr. at Cambridge University; sm. mezz.
4. JAMES MONTAGU.—*Elstracke* sc.—*S. Pass* sc. *Holland* exc. sm. folio.—In "Heroologia," 8vo. A Copy in Boissard.
5. ARTHUR LAKE.—*Payne* sc. prefixed to his "Works," 1629, folio.—*W. Hollar* sc. pref. to his "Sermons," 1641, 4to.—A Copy in Boissard, 4to.
6. WILLIAM LAUD.—*W. Hollar* sc. from Vandyck, 1640, 4to.—*D. Loggan* sc. from the same. Large half sheet.—*Vertue* sc. from the same. One of the set of Loyalists.—*Burghers* sc. In the Frontispiece to the "Catalogue of the Bodleian Library."—*W. Marshall* sc. 12mo.—*Id.* sc. small, ruling, pref. to Fuller's "Argument against the Ecclesiastical Commissioners," 1641.—*Picters* sc. sm. 4to.—*White* sc. folio.—*Sturt* sc.—*Huybrechts* sc. oval. 8vo.—*Moncornet* sc. 8vo.—*Watson* sc. from a Portr. in the Houghton Coll.—*R. Dunkarton*, sc. mezz. 8vo.—*Audran* sc. folio.—With a View of his Execution, folio.—Scarce wood cut, representing Laud and Henry Burton, whole lengths. The Prelate is represented vomiting up his own works, and Burton holding his head. Doggrel verses underneath.—Rare wood cut, with Insc. "Only Canonical Prayers: no Afternoon Sermons," 4to.—Half length, with a view of his House in Broad Street, Reading, in Man's "Hist. of Reading," 1816.
7. WALTER CURLE.—*T. Cecill* sc. folio.—*M. Droeshout* sc.
8. PETER MEWS.—*D. Loggan* sc. folio.—Two oval prints, without engraver's name.
9. THOMAS KENN.—*Vertue* sc. 8vo.—*Drapentier* sc.—*White* sc. Among the Seven Bishops.
10. WILLIAM BEVERIDGE.—*Vander Gucht* sc. from B. Ferrers. L. folio.—*Id.* sc. pref. to his "Sermons," 8vo.—*W. Sherwin* sc. mezz. 4to. and 12mo.—*J. Simon* sc. from Richardson, mezz.—*Sturt* sc. 8vo.—*Vertue* sc. from T. Murray, folio.
11. RICHARD KIDDER.—*Clamp* sc. 8vo.
12. GEORGE HOOPER.—*Smith* sc. from Kneller, mezz.—*G. White* sc. from T. Hall. Noble remarks, that the mixture of mezzotint with engraving was first practised in this print.
13. EDWARD WILLES.—*Faber* sc. from T. Hudson, mezz. folio.
14. RICHARD BEADON.—*Facijs* sc. folio.

PORTRAITS OF THE DEANS OF WELLS.

1. THOMAS CROMWELL, EARL OF ESSEX.—*Filian* sc. 4to.—*Hollar* sc. from Holbein, 4to.—*Houbraken* sc. in Birch's "Lives."—*Mainwaring* sc. mezz.—*Peacham* sc. from Holbein.—*L. Schiavonetti* sc. in Harding's "Shakspeare."—*R. White* sc. in Burnett's "Hist. of the Reformation."—In "Heroologia."
2. RALPH BATHURST.—*Loggan* sc. folio.—*Walker* sc. pref. to his "Life," by Warton, 1761, 8vo.

List of Prints

ILLUSTRATIVE OF WELLS CATHEDRAL.

Plates.	Subjects.	Drawn by	Engraved by	Inscribed to	Described.
I.	Ground Plan	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	.....	100, 102
II.	Title; Monument, and Details.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	Dean of Wells.....	{ 115, 60, 61, note 7, 115
EXTERIORS.					
III.	View of North Transept	S. Rayoer.....	Wallis.....	Rev. H. T. Ellicombe...	93, 97
IV.	Ditto, West Front	Shaw	Varral.....	Rev. R. Foster.....	93, 97
IV.*	Buttresses, N. Tower.....	Shaw	Sands.....	Rev. W. Conybeare	94, 95
V.	Section of West Front.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	Geo. Repton, Esq. Archt.	97, 98
V.*	Centre Compartment at top	Shaw	J. Le Keux	Sir J. C. Hippsley, Bt..	95
VI.	South-east View	Martin.....	J. Le Keux	Rev. H. C. Sumner, &c.	98
VII.	Compartments, Nave (exterior and interior)...	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	.....	98, 99
INTERIORS, &c.					
VIII.	View across the Nave	Rayner.....	J. Le Keux	{ G. A. Underwood, } { Esq. Archt. }	101, 102
IX.	Section of Chapter House, &c.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	{ P. F. Robinson, Esq. } { Archt. }	101
X.	View of ditto.....	Gastineau.....	J. Le Keux	Rev. F. Beadon	101
XI.	Ditto Crypt of ditto.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	Rev. Dr. Moysey	103, 104
XII.	Nave, View of.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	Rev. W. Phelps.	{ 102, 110, 111
XIII.	Specimens of Capitals.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	.....	116
XIV.	View of the Altar End.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	Bishop of Rochester	103, 110
XV.	Compartments of Choir (exterior and interior)	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	.....	103
XVI.	Sec. of N. Transept, Elevation of S. Transept..	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	.....	98, 99
XVII.	Lady Chapel, View of.....	Cattermole.....	J. Le Keux	Rev. R. Frankland.....	{ 103, 107, 108
XVIII.	Stairs to Chapter House	Gandy.....	Sands.....	Rev. W. H. Turner.....	104
XIX.	Details, West End	Shaw.....	Sands.....	.....	97
XX.	Gateway to the Close.....	Gastineau.....	Sands.....	Wm. Parfitt, Esq. ¹	117
XXI.	View under the Tower	Shaw, &c.....	H. Le Keux	Rev. Thos. Wodehouse..	102
XXII.	Twelve Capitals.....	Shaw	J. Le Keux	W. Parfitt, Esq.....	116

¹ By some extraordinary accident the writing to this Plate has been erroneous: the Author intended to inscribe it to Edward Tuson, Esq. the Bishop's Steward, &c.

INDEX.

A.

ABUTMENTS, singular, under tower, 102.
 Adrian de Castello, Bp. 50, 52.
 Agelbert, West Saxon Bishop, 10.
 Aldhelm, Bp. of Sherborne, 11.
 Alexander VI. (Pope), poisoned, 51 *note*.
 Asser Menevensis, Bp. of Sherborne, 12.
 Athelm, first Bp. of Wells, 15, 18.

B.

Barlow (Will.) Bp. 57, 60.
 Barnet (John), Bp. 39.
 Bath Abbey granted to the Bp. of Wells, 20.
 Beadon (Richard), Bp. 82.
 Beckington (Tho.), Bp. 43; his benefactions, 44, 46; extracts from Chandler's Life of, 46, 47; monumental chapel, 110; tomb, 111.
 Berkeley (Gilb.), Bp. 63; monument, 113.
 Birinus, first West Saxon Bishop, 9.
 Bourne (Gilb.) Bp. 61; anecdote of, 61 *note*; deprived, 62.
 Bowet (Henry), Bp. 41.
 Brithelm, Bp. 18; monument, 105.
 Bubwith, Bp. builds N. W. tower, and part of cloister, 87; monumental chapel, 110.
 Burnell (Robt.), Bp. 36.
 Burvoldus, Bp. 105.
 Button (Will.), Bp. 35; monument, 106.
 ——— 2d Bp. of that name, 36; conjectures on his monument, 107.

C.

Capitals noticed, 116; Plates of, XIII. and XXII.
 CATHEDRAL CHURCH, inquiry respecting its foundation, 84, 5; its features in conjunction with scenery, 91, 93; building of nave, &c. 85; Lady Chapel, 86; chapter-house, 86; S. W. and N. W. towers, 86; part of cloister, 87; styles of, 88; west front, described, 93, 97; exterior, 93, 100; nave and ailes, section of, 101, 102; north porch, 86, 97, 98; masonry of, 98; central tower, 98, 102.
 Chapter-house, 86, 103, 104.
 Clarke (John), Bp. 56.
 Clock, curious one, 116.

Cloister built, 87; noticed, 99.
 Codex Ruber Bathon., 41.
 Congresbury, supposed Bishopric, 4.
 Contests between the canons of Wells and monks of Bath, 29.
 Cornish (Thos.) monument, 115.
 Creighton (Robt.), Bp. 76; monument, 113.
 Curle (Walt.), Bp. 74.

D.

Daniel, Bp. of Winchester, 11.
 Deanery, described, 117.
 Domesday survey of the Diocess, 24.
 Drokensford (John), Bp. 38; monument of, 108.
 Dudoc, Bp. 20.

E.

Ealhstan, Bp. of Sherborne, 12.
 Elizabeth (Queen), her spoliation of Bishoprics, 57.
 Erghum (Ralph), Bp. 40; gravestone, 110.
 Eyre (the Rev. Thos.), monument, 115.

F.

Forest (Dean), monument, 115.
 Formosus (Pope), his Letters missive relative to the West Saxon Sees, 15, 17.
 Forthere, Bp. of Sherborne, 12.
 Fox (Rich.), Bp. 49.

G.

Gammer Gurton's Needle, the earliest English Comedy, not written by Bp. Still, 68, 69.
 Giffard (Walter), Bp. 36.
 Giso, Bp. 20, 24; monument, 105.
 Glastonbury, foundation of, 2, 3.
 Godfrey, Bp. 28.
 Godwin (Thos.) Bp. 63, 65.

H.

Harewell (John de), Bp. 39; built S. W. tower, 86; monument, 110.
 Harris, Bp. of Landaff; monument, 115.
 Haselshawe (Walt.) Bp. 37; monument of, 108.
 Hedda, Bp. of Winchester, 10.

Hooper (Geo.), Bp. 80; monument, 114.
Husèe (Henry), monument, 114.

I.

Ina (King), his charter to the monks of Glastonbury, 5, 7; probably spurious, 7, 9; his presumed gravestone, 108.

J.

Joceline de Wells, Bp. 33; exiled by King John, 34; restored, 34; his buildings, 85; monument, 106.
John de Villula, Bp. 25; removes the See to Bath, 25; his donations to the monks, 27.
Joseph of Arimathea, 2.

K.

Kenn (Thos.), Bp. 78; deprived, 79.
Kidder (Rich.), Bp. 79; killed by accident, 79; Monument, 113.
King (Oliver), Bp. 50; founds Bath Abbey, 50.

L.

Lady Chapel, 86, 103.
Lake (Arth.), Bp. 70; monument, 113.
Land (Will.), Bp. 71, 73; removed to London, 72; beheaded, 73.
Law (Geo. Henry), Bp. 83.
Lentherius, West Saxon Bishop, 10.
Lightning, remarkable effect of, 68 *note*.
Linley (Thos.), monument, 115.
Lisle (Viscountess), monument, 114.
Lucius, a British king, 3.

M.

Marchia (Will. de), Bp. 37; monument, 107.
Mawe (Leon.), Bp. 73.
Mews (Peter), Bp. 77; his military exploits, 77.
Minstrel Gallery, 116.
Montague (James), Bp. 69.
Monuments and effigies, difficulty of appropriating, 105.
Moss (Charles), Bp. 82.

N.

Nave characterised, 98, 99. See Plates vii. viii. 101; xii. 102; xiii. and xxii. 116.

O.

Organ screen, 102.

P.

Palace, Bishop's, 117.
Parapet noticed, 100.
Phaganus and Deruvianus (St.), 3.
Phrea's (John), Bp. 46.
Piers (Will.) Bp. offends the Puritans, 75 *note*.
Porch, North, character of, 88, 97, 98; Pl. 111.

R.

Reginald, Bp. 30.
Richard I. charter of, 31.
Robert, Bp. 23.
Roger, Bp. 35.

S.

Salopia (Ralph de) Bp. 38; monument, 109.
Savaric, Bp. 32.
See, early history of, 1, 14.
Sherborne, Bishopric of, 11.
Sheridan, Mrs. monument, 115.
Sighelm, or Swithelm, Bp. of Sherborne, 13; his embassy to India, 14.
Skirlawe (Walt.), Bp. 40.
Stafford (John), Bp. 42.
Statues and sculpture of west front, 93, 96.
Still (John), Bp. 65, 67; his pretensions as the author of "Gammer Gurton's Needle" considered, 68, 69; monument, 113.
Stillington (Rich.) Bp. 48.
Storthwait (John), monument, 114.
Sugar (Hugh), monumental chapel, 112.

T.

Tethiscine, ancient name of Wells, 4.
Tidington, old name of Wells, 4.
Towers, N. W. and S. W. built, 86-7, (see Plates iv. and v.); central tower, 98, 102, (see Plates 111. v.* and xvi.)

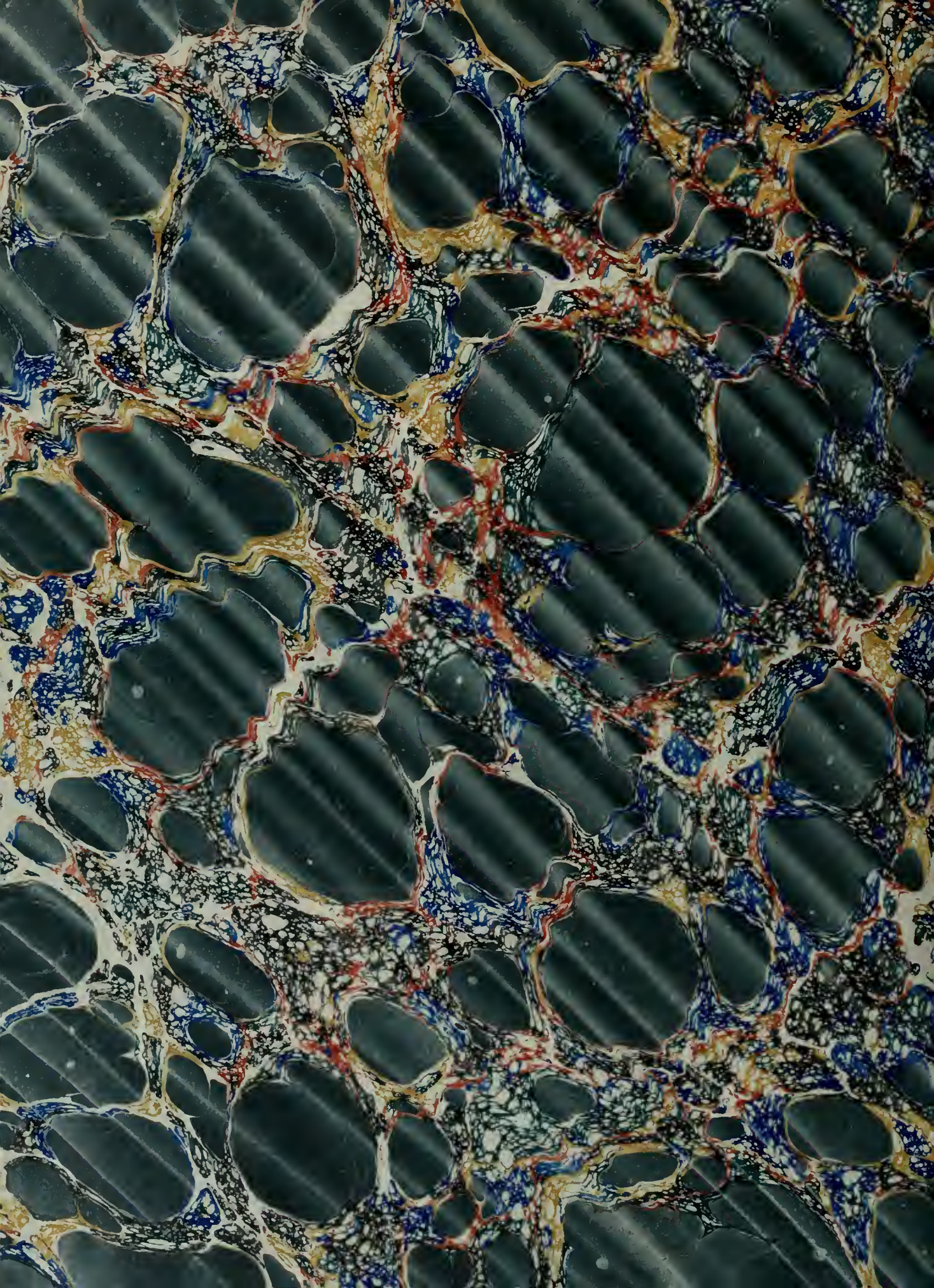
V.

Vicar's close and gateway, 117, (see Pl. xx.)
Vicar's college, 118.

W.

West Saxons, conversion of, 9.
Willes (Edward), Bp. 81.
Willis (Hum. Esq.), 116.
Wina, Bp. of Winchester, 10.
Windows, great west, 86; of nave and choir, 88.
Wolsey (Cardinal), 52, 56.
Wulthelm, Bp. 13.
Wynne (John), Bp. 81.

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